

26-yr-old techie gangraped by 10

CHAIBASA: A 26-year-old software engineer was allegedly raped by around 10 men in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, police said Saturday. The woman, who works at a well-known IT company and is here as she is working from home, was out with her boyfriend on a two-wheeler Thursday evening when the incident took place near the old aerodrome in Chaibasa, they said. A group of around 10 men stopped the couple, beat the boyfriend up and allegedly raped the woman after taking her to a secluded spot, police said. SP Ashutosh Shekhar said that a case was registered at Muffasil police station and an investigation is underway. **MORE P7**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.0°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	21.5°C	21.8°C
Humidity	77%	74%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

Noxious air sinks life expectancy by 10 yrs

India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level exceeds the WHO guideline

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 22: India being the world's second most polluted country, the air pollution here shortens the average life expectancy by five years and in some areas by 10 years, a report said.

This is relative to what it would be if the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline of fine particulate pollution (PM2.5) of 5 micrograms per cubic metre air was met as per the air quality life index (AQLI) fact sheet on India in June 2022 that translates particulate air pollution into perhaps the most important metric that exists: its impact on life expectancy.

Some areas of India fare much worse than average of five years,



Around 510 mn residents in Indo-Gangetic plains - nearly 40% of India's population - are on track to lose 7.6 years of life expectancy on average

with air pollution shortening lives by almost 10 years in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the

most polluted city in the world.

Developed by the University of Chicago's Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics Michael Greenstone and his team at the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), the AQLI is rooted in recent research that quantifies the causal relationship between long-term human exposure to air pollution and life expectancy.

India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level exceeds the WHO guideline. More than 63 per cent of the population live in areas that exceed the country's own national air quality standard of 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air. **Continued on P4**



LET THERE BE LIGHT: Decorative light shops at Unit I market in Bhubaneswar witnessed heavy rush Saturday ahead of Diwali, which would be celebrated in grand scale after a two-year lull due to Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

3 TRIBAL WOMEN ELECTROCUTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 22: Three women herding goats were electrocuted to death while trying to save one of the goats from a live wire near Tangiri village under Telkoi police limits in Keonjhar district, Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Niradhi Juang, 45, wife of Magishiria Juang; Kathi Juang, 62, wife of Singa Juang; and Manjari Juanga, 35, wife of Kuna Juang - all residents of Juang Sahi in Tangiri village.

The incident occurred when the trio was returning home in the afternoon after herding their goats in the nearby jungle. One of the goats came in contact with a snapped live wire that had fallen on the ground. The power line was connecting the farmlands of two farmers in the area, said sources.

On being informed, local police reached the village and recovered the bodies before sending them for post-mortem. It is being alleged that some people laid the live wire inside the forest to protect their crop from wild animals.

NASA's image of supernova remains stuns netizens

■ The composite image shows the remains of a supernova which is around 9,000 light-year from Earth

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 22: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has shared a mesmerising image of a supernova captured by the Chandra X-ray

Observatory telescope on its Instagram page.

The NASA shared the picture of the rotating neutron stars, ever detected in 2016. It exhibits properties of a highly magnetized neutron star or magnetar, yet its deduced spin period is thousands of times longer than any pulsar ever observed, said NASA in a press release.

The composite image shows the remains of a supernova which is around 9,000 light-year from Earth,



in three bands of X-ray light. In this image, the lowest energy X-

rays from Chandra are red, the medium band is green, and the highest energy X-rays are blue. The bright blue X-ray source in the middle of RCW 103 is 1E 1613, according to the press release.

NASA in its Instagram caption reads, "Our Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory telescope and several other X-ray telescopes observed one of the most extreme rotating neutron stars or pulsars - ever detected in 2016. Swift Observatory helps

detect gamma-ray bursts - large gamma radiation pulses which form when a massive star collapses, creating a black hole - using optical, ultraviolet, and X-ray light." It further added, "This composite image shows the remains of a supernova, around 9,000 light-years from Earth, in three bands of X-ray light detected by @NASACHandraXRy, with low energy X-rays in red, medium in green, and the highest in blue." **Continued on P4**

State declares Oct 25 a holiday

BHUBANESWAR: The state government Saturday declared October 25 a public holiday on account of a solar eclipse. All government offices, schools, colleges, educational institutions, courts, banks and other financial institutions will remain closed Tuesday, according to an official release. The partial solar eclipse October 25 will be visible in all the states of the country. This solar eclipse is the last one of this year.

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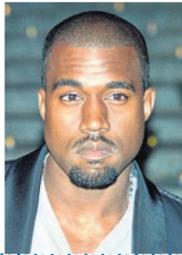
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KANYE 'NO LONGER PART OF VOGUE'S INNER CIRCLE'

Rapper Kanye West has been severed from Fashion bible Vogue, after a string of controversies including his anti-Semitic rants and his support for the White Lives Matter movement. A Vogue spokesperson told that neither the magazine nor its editor-in-chief intend to work with Kanye again.

COOLIDGE WOULD LOVE TO JOIN 'REAL HOUSEWIVES OF BEVERLY HILLS'

Jennifer known for her role in American Pie would join the likes of Lisa Rinna and Kathy for the reality series which follows the lives of affluent women based in the CA city. Says she finds it 'riveting' and would join the "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" to impress her gay friends.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Ideas play havoc in your head today. The good thing is that you will execute them well. Here is a word of caution for you: avoid hasty decisions. Experienced people will help you find a firm footing. Ganesh advises you to pay heed to elders' counselling.

TAURUS

Ganesh predicts that today, you will be successful in money matters. There is, at best, only an outside chance that any stimulating event or thrilling escapade will occur today. In short, the day may be boring. Fret not as the dreary day may change into an exhilarating evening, feels Ganesh.

GEMINI

The idea of being with your family will keep you motivated throughout the day. In business, your inquisitive approach will do you a lot of good. In fact, you will have the proverbial Midas touch - whichever venture you put your hands on will turn into a glittering success.

CANCER

Today, you will strictly follow your plan book. All Ganesh needs to do to predict your day is take a peep into the book. However, this is only one of those rare days when things go according to plan.

LEO

Most battles are fought and won inside our head. Hence, Ganesh urges you to maintain a positive outlook today. The stars grant you the ability to double your efforts, and allow your imagination to take flight and chart new routes to success.

VIRGO

You better identify your worth in the realms of emotions, feelings and sentiments. You shall warm up to and about everything - from play to colleagues to family. Simultaneously, you may realise where your limitations are. Ganesh predicts that the artist in you will flourish beginning today.

LIBRA

The Bhagavad Gita says, "Do your duty without expecting the fruit." Remember this important lesson and strive hard to put in extra efforts to finish off whatever you undertake to do. Worrying about results will only hamper your progress. Go with the flow and let results come to you. You may want to discuss some urgent matters with your close friend today, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

Don't run from your troubles, learn to face the challenges and try to solve your problems. This piece of Ganesh's advice is going to help you today. And you very well know why. Take all the tips that come to you sportingly and try to implement it in your practical life.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, arranging meetings with customers and suppliers will eat into most of your time. Your patience will enable you to listen to suggestions and opinions offered by people. The result of all this, however, is slated to be most favourable and productive.

CAPRICORN

You have always been generous by nature, but your benevolent attitude will do you no good, warns Ganesh. People will try, almost blatantly, to take advantage of you, and for once, you will feel that being crafty and unrelenting would have helped kept those blood-sucking leeches at bay.

AQUARIUS

Today, you work hard and party harder! The morning sees you sweating it out at work, as you do your best to implement your plans. In the evening, you will don your best attire and get ready to have a gala time with your beloved. Ganesh says, you receive as much as you give.

PISCES

A highly productive day awaits you. You will be driven to succeed, and filled with energy and enthusiasm to achieve your goals. Meetings with your superiors ought to yield some much anticipated results, says Ganesh.

HAPPY ABOUT WORKING DIWALI: TAMANNAAH

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia will be working on Diwali and she says she couldn't be happier. After giving her best in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi Film Industry, she's all set to make her Malayalam film debut. Helmed by Arun Gopi, the shooting has already begun and the dynamo Tamannaah will have a working festive season this Diwali. Tamannaah said "I couldn't be happier to be having a working Diwali! I'll celebrate the festivities with the entire cast and crew on set itself and I'm looking forward to it. I'm very grateful for all the amazing work that has been coming my way. The love that the audiences and my fans give me, is what keeps me motivated all year round." **IANS**

'COMMUNITY IS CHANGING, YET A LONG BATTLE AHEAD': SHREEGAURI

Sushmita gets admired for playing transgender

Mumbai: Transgender rights activist Shreegauri Sawant has never shied away from speaking about the struggles from her past. Now, with her story being turned into a series, with actress Sushmita Sen portraying her on screen, Gauri is excited. She says, "Quite a few transgender persons have been through similar experiences like me. It was high time a real-life story of a transgender got explored on screen." **'Big win for entire community'** Mother to a 21-year-old daughter, Shreegauri is happy that another dotting mom, Sushmita, is playing her on screen. "When the makers told me that they had signed Sushmita for my role, I was pleasantly surprised and flattered. I was curious to know how she agreed to play me on screen. When I asked her this, she very sweetly held my hand, smiled and replied, 'Jaan, tu bhi ek maa hai, aur main bhi ek maa hu, bas isiye.'" Shreegauri adds that a woman agreeing to portray a character of a transgender is a big win for the entire community. **AGENCIES**



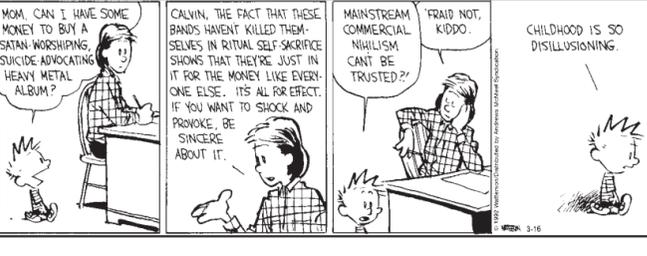
Wanted to take road less travelled: Rakul

Mumbai: Rakul Preet Singh, an actress from the Indian Cinema who is good in academia, chose to take a different route. "I know I am a mathematics graduate, but the only thing I knew back then is that I wanted to do something different. When I was in school, my parents used to ask me, 'What will you do when you grow up?' And I used to always say, 'I don't know what I am going to be, but I am not going to be a doctor or an engineer. I was very sure about that. Though I studied science and then I did math, I just wanted to do something different. I wanted to possibly take the road less travelled. Everybody in my class wanted to be an engineer or a doctor. So, I was like, mujhe kuch alag karna hai.'" **AGENCIES**

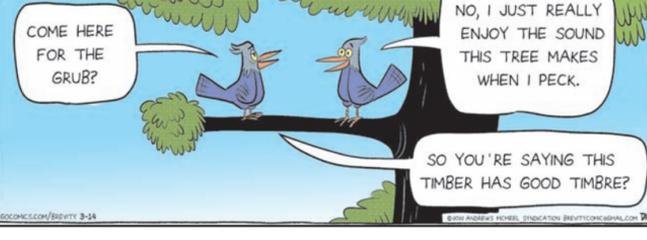
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



'Backstage' builds, rewards curiosity

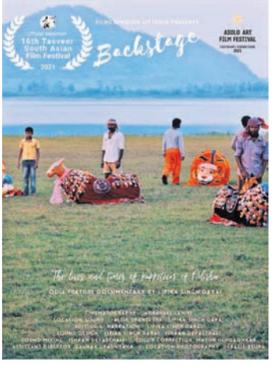
The documentary takes the viewers behind the curtains, and introduces them to the constellation of characters who define the puppetry scene in Odisha

ATRI PRASAD ROUT, OP

Multiple national award winning filmmaker Lipika Singh Darai's 'Backstage' was lauded at the recently concluded Indian Documentary Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IDFFB) for a reason. The word backstage evokes in mind a kind of curiosity. It's the sensation you get when you experience a piece of art so unique and so profound that you can't help but wonder about the process that made it possible, the thoughts of the artists and their methods. You feel a strong urge to peek behind the curtain and witness how the proverbial bread is baked.

'Backstage' (2021) builds and rewards curiosity. It takes you behind the curtains, and introduces you to the constellation of characters who define the puppetry scene in Odisha. You visit the workshop of Maguni Charan Kuanr, a rod puppeteer from Keonjhar who has handcrafted out of wood some 300 puppets. You meet Gouranga Charan Dash, a scholar and a performer on a mission to preserve the art of shadow puppetry, or Ravana Chhaya. Apart from shadow and rod puppetry, present in Odisha are also traditions of string and glove puppetry. You see glove puppeteers Abhay Singh and Parameshwar Singh travel from village to village on cycles, with drum and harmonium, to perform amidst crowds.

As you meet all these characters, and listen to their concerns, you come to admire Darai, the filmmaker, as a storyteller. She is neither the fly-in journalist nor the fly-on-the-wall documentarian. Her approach here can be best described as a combination of those of a researcher and a curator. Instead of the fragmented understanding of journalists doing overnight reporting, she presents her viewers an exploration of the whole puppetry ecosystem, underlining subtly the presence of caste and privilege. Like a curator, with voiceover narration she gently leads them into the film, holding hand, but then skillfully removes herself from the narrative, only to return in the end to carefully walk them out. That, in the middle, elimination of



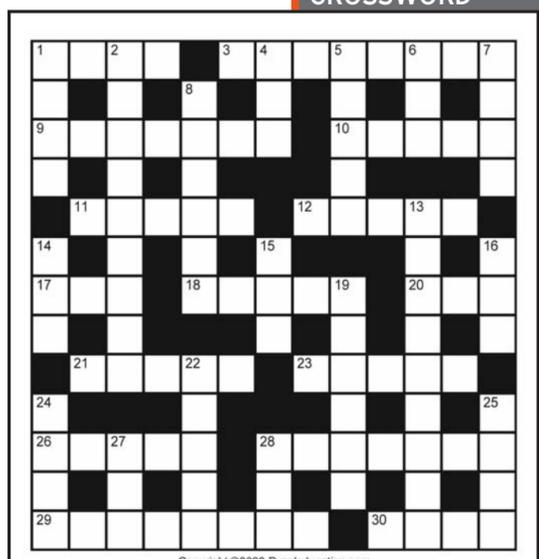
Film Review

self by the filmmaker, leaves the audience with the subject, puppeteers, to laugh as Maguni plays with his puppet Bhagia, an alcoholic, to ponder as Gouranga Dash, a Brahmin, examines his place in this art typically reserved for the lower castes, to contemplate as the glove puppeteers reflect on the decline in popularity of puppetry, and to grieve as Rabi Das, a shadow puppeteer who gave up his practice because of poverty, mourns the loss of his art.

As you go through all of this, you realise that it's a tragic story, of hundreds of puppet troupes disbanding and puppeteers struggling to make a living and spread their art. Going beyond puppetry, the trend is symptomatic of the poor state of folk art, of community and participation. But it's not all suffering and hopelessness. Maguni stands in the middle as a beacon of positivity. He is a man so in love with his craft that he has little concern for anything else. "In the ocean of art, you can never see your footprints. And that thought has never occupied me. I just do the work," says Maguni.

DIRECTION, EDITING & NARRATION : LIPIKA SINGH DARAI
PRODUCER : FILMS DIVISION OF INDIA
DURATION : 1 HR 25 MINUTES

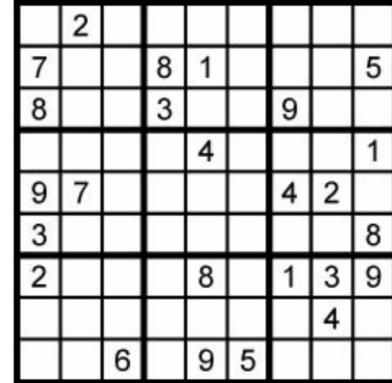
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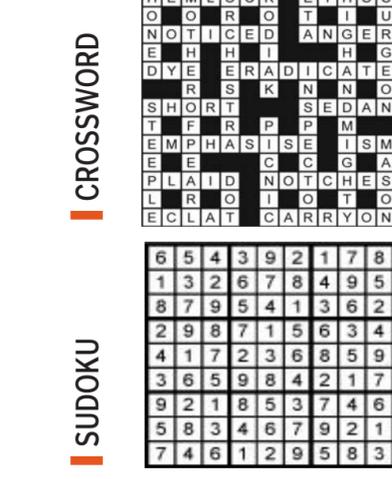
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Oppose
 - 3 Plausible but false
 - 9 Hostility
 - 10 Anatomical sac
 - 11 Formulas
 - 12 Kind of infection
 - 17 Island strings
 - 18 Bloodhound's clue
 - 20 Naught
 - 21 Theatre employee
 - 23 Leaves at the altar
 - 26 Prophecy
 - 28 Kind of cat
 - 29 Links group
 - 30 Feudal worker
 - Down**
 - 1 Farm building
 - 2 Magicians
 - 4 Scorecard number
 - 5 Morocco's capital
 - 6 Paddle
 - 7 Smelting waste
 - 8 Book store items
 - 13 Conifers (4,5)
 - 14 Wine container
 - 15 Casbah headgear
 - 16 Elderly
 - 19 South China Sea island
 - 22 Continental money
 - 24 Fishing tackle
 - 25 Dehydrated
 - 27 Wildebeest
 - 28 Bottom line

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



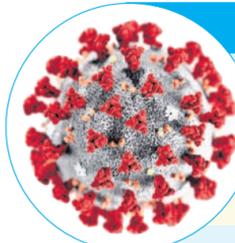
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



SETTING STAGE

Baliyatra Ground in Cuttack being levelled Saturday as the state is all set to host the annual open air trade fair after 2 years of Covid hiatus



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,25,61,684	61,13,26,718	65,81,822
India	4,46,40,748	4,40,87,748	5,28,957
Odisha	13,35,808	13,26,105	9,202

State gears up to prepare annual Budget for 2023-24

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The state government has geared up measures to prepare the annual Budget for the financial year 2023-24.

The Finance department has issued a detailed circular in this regard. Sources said the Finance department will communicate the departments with a multi-year ceiling for next three years—2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26—so that the departments would have predictability in fund flow and can make project planning.

“The departments will be given two-three months of time to have a thorough scrutiny and prioritisation of the Budget proposals within the ceiling communicated,” said Finance department secretary Vishal Dev.

The ceiling will be communicated through the BETA system on a broad category of expenditure with flexibility to the departments to prioritise the expenditure within the ceiling.

Dev made it clear that proposals beyond the ceiling will not be allowed to be processed in the BETA system. As per the circular, departmental ceiling will be communicated to each department disaggregated by administrative expenditure (salaries, maintenance and others), programme expenditure (state sector schemes, centrally sponsored schemes, and central sector schemes), transfers from state (Central Finance Commission, State Finance Commission and others) and disaster response funds (SDRF and NDMF).

The departments have been asked to adopt previously established norms and practices for prepara-



tion of estimates within the ceilings communicated.

While preparing the programme expenditure, Dev asked the departments to identify sectoral priorities in line with State priorities and SDGs wherever relevant.

The state government is now maintaining separate Budget lines for central and state share under each Centrally-Sponsored Scheme (CSS) as per the revised guidelines of Government of India for release of funds under CSS, he said.

He advised the departments to earmarking of allocation for different schemes under the programme expenditure for tribal component and scheduled caste sub-component as per the norm.

Like the current year, the Finance department in consultation with the Planning and Convergence department will bring out a ‘Fiscal Strategy Paper’ indicating the assumptions for revenue and expenditure projections in the medium term and the outlook for

the state economy and finances.

Other documents like statement under FRBM Act, SDG Budget, Gender Budget, Child Budget, Nutrition Budget and Climate Budget would also be prepared mostly by using the information from the Budget database.

Dev asked the departments to submit the expenditure estimates by December 15, 2022.

The Pre-Budget consulting meeting will be conducted between December 16 and 31 while a meeting with secretaries of major spending departments will be held February 6, 2023 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary or Development Commissioner.

The annual Budget is scheduled to be put before the Council of Ministers in between February 7 and 10, 2023 for its approval.

The Budget documents will be drafted in the second week of February while the Appropriation Bill will be tabled in the Assembly by March 2023.

White tigress Bijaya dies at Nandankanan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, Oct 22: White tigress Bijaya, which was one of the major attractions at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here, died at the zoo, Saturday, an official said.

According to NZP sources, Bijaya was unwell since October 14.

Bijaya was taken to the veterinary facility October 14. Following a few examinations and collection of blood and other samples, she was shifted to the safari feeding chamber October 19. On October 21, it was learnt that she was affected with an infection caused by mosquito bite, said a zoo official.

On Saturday morning, veterinarians went into the safari feeding chamber and gave her some sedatives for ultrasound. “However, she died around 1pm,” said the official.

Post-mortem revealed that around 90 per cent of her lungs were affected with cancer, the official pointed out.

With Bijaya’s death, Nandankanan is left with 25 tigers.

2 compartments of express train derail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Two empty compartments of Puri-Howrah Express train jumped rail Saturday while the train was on its way to Puri railway station, a railway official said.

There was no injury to anyone as the train was empty and was on way to Puri station for its journey to Howrah, he said.

He said the train after its arrival in the morning was sent to Malatipatpur station, about 9 km from Puri for cleaning and washing. The mishap took place while the train was returning to Puri station in the evening, the official said.

Railway officers have rushed to the spot.

The departure of the train from Puri station for Howrah has been delayed due to the derailment, the official added.

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Continued from P1

Noxious air sinks...

Measured in terms of life expectancy, particulate pollution is the greatest threat to human health in India, reducing life expectancy by five years. In contrast, child and maternal malnutrition reduces average life expectancy by about 1.8 years, while smoking reduces the average life expectancy by 1.5 years.

As per AQLI, particulate pollution has increased over time. Since 1998, average annual particulate pollution has increased by 61.4 per cent, leading to a further reduction in average life expectancy of 2.1 years. Since 2013, about 44 per cent of the world's increase in pollution has come from India.

In the Indo-Gangetic plains of Northern India, 510 million residents, nearly 40 per cent of India's population are on track to lose 7.6 years of life expectancy on average, if current pollution levels persist.

Residents of Lucknow stand to lose 9.5 years of life expectancy if pollution levels persist. According to the AQLI, a permanent, nationwide reduction of 25 per cent, the midpoint of NCAP's target range, would increase India's average national life expectancy by 1.4 years, and by 2.6 years for residents of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Dr Anju Goel, Fellow, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) said, "As per the recent data from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 95 of the 132 non-attainment cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) have seen an overall improvement in PM10 levels in 2021 compared to 2017.

However, the government must focus on reducing regional-scale pollution to achieve the prescribed standard of 60 micrograms per cubic metre of air for PM10. In most Indian cities, background sources contribute the most pollution. In India, cooking and heating with solid biomass burning and industry are major sectors contributing to approximately 30 per cent and 21 per cent of PM2.5 concentrations, Goel said.

National scale policies to promote LPG penetration in the residential sector and cleaner fuel and efficient technologies in Industries can help the country tackle regional scale pollution. The existing PMUY has increased the LPG coverage in the country.

On the air quality issues that India faces, Dr Pratima Singh, who leads the Centre for Air Pollution Studies (CAPS) at the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) said lack of technical understanding (emission inventory and source apportionment studies) of the pollution sources delayed the preparation of effective action plans for the cities.

This led to identifying the efficient control measures for improving the air quality levels. Moreover, interventions such as road infrastructure development, improvement in transport services, and shifting to cleaner fuel requires financial support and departmental coordination.

NASA's image of supernova ...

"Image description: Blank space as black as #Midnight is dotted with tiny white stars across the image. A swirling labyrinth of colours of blue, green, yellow, purple, and red makes up the center of the photo surrounding the neutron star in bright blue," NASA wrote.

The image has amassed several likes and comments. Social media users were stunned after seeing the image, a user wrote, "Space Midnight should be a new colour." Another said, "I see what you did there NASA!" The third commented, "This is sooooo beautiful. Our universe can be so cinematic," the third commented.

The Swift detection caught astronomers' attention because the source exhibited intense, extremely rapid fluctuations on a time scale of milliseconds, similar to other known magnetars. These exotic objects possess the most powerful magnetic fields in the Universe - trillions of times that observed on the Sun - and can erupt with enormous amounts of energy, NASA said in a release.

Dakota aircraft to be brought to Odisha soon

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The Odisha government is set to bring to the state the iconic Dakota aircraft of former chief minister Biju Patnaik from Kolkata, with the Airport Authority of India (AAI) having agreed to hand over 1.1 acre land on the premises of the airport here for the purpose.

Efforts to transport the aircraft to Odisha were made in the last two years, too, and tender was also floated for the initiative, but the Covid-19 pandemic stalled the plan, a senior official said.

"The administration is now all set to complete the process as the AAI, at its recent board meeting, accepted the state government's proposal to lease out 1.1 acre of land for setting up a memorial, where the aircraft will be put up for display," the Home department official said.

According to the official, the aircraft, which is 64 feet and 8 inches long, with its wings stretching to 95 feet, will be dismantled for transportation by road to Bhubaneswar from the Kolkata airport.

The parts will then be re-assembled after necessary repairs, he explained.

Biju Patnaik, besides being a social reformer and politician, was also a highly skilled pilot who flew planes and undertook high-risk missions ahead of the country's



Independence. Prasanna Pradhan, the director of Biju Patnaik

International Airport (BPIA), said that the AAI has given its go-ahead to build the memorial as a mark of tribute to the iconic leader.

"The Dakota aircraft will be placed at the memorial for public viewing," he said, adding that the plane has undergone much wear and tear over the years.

Historian Anil Dhir said Patnaik was very fond of Dakota planes.

Dhir also said that the former CM had used this particular aircraft, currently parked at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, to rescue then Indonesia's then prime minister Sutan

According to the official, the aircraft, which is 64 feet and 8 inches long, with its wings stretching to 95 feet, will be dismantled for transportation by road to Bhubaneswar from the Kolkata airport

Sjahri and vice president Mohammad Hatta during a period of turmoil in that country in April 1947.

A grateful Indonesia had twice decorated Biju Patnaik with its highest civilian honour 'Bhumiputra' for the feat.

Patnaik, before joining active politics, had set up Kalinga Airlines that operated from Kolkata. The private airline operated nearly a dozen airplanes, including Dakotas.

The ace pilot, the father of Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, was also a member of the Royal Indian Air Force under British rule.

He clandestinely flew Indian freedom fighters from one location to another, the historian said.

Mayor celebrates diwali with Bhima Bhoi School students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: BMC Mayor Sulochana Das and the team including BMC Commissioner Vijaya Amruta Kulange and Bhubaneswar Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena celebrated Diwali with the students of Bhima Bhoi School for blind in front of Exhibition Ground at Unit-III Saturday.

On the occasion, Das and the team distributed food to over hundred students of the school and also celebrated diwali by bursting crackers. She said, "Diwali is a festival for spreading happiness and everybody should spread happiness with others".

Meanwhile, BMC continues the food checking drive with special focus on sweet shops. The team inspected sweet shops at Unit-3, Nandan Vihar area.

After a gap of two years, the citizens will get a chance to celebrate the festival of light like they were doing in the previous years in the state. It is to be noted that restrictions were imposed on bursting of crackers during Diwali for the last two years due to the pandemic. However, this year the BMC has allowed the sale and bursting of fire-crackers.



Odisha Walks launched at Parsurameswar Temple



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Odisha Walks, a guided heritage walking tour to various heritage sites across the state, was inaugurated Saturday at Parsurameswar Temple in Bhubaneswar by the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) chairperson Lenin Mohanty in the presence of Director Tourism & MD OTDC, Sachin Ramachandra Jadhav.

Renowned Odia Rapper Sameer Rishu Mohanty better known as Rapper Big Deal was the celebrity guest on the occasion.

More than 50 enthusiasts from different parts of the city joined the maiden heritage walk in which the participants were presented with interesting facets on the rich culture and heritage of Odisha, depicted in each of the monuments. Jitu Mishra and Rosalin Dash were the presenters for the inaugural heritage walk.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohanty said that these guided tours, curated along the identified heritage circuits of Bhubaneswar,

will help reveal the city's rich architectural treasures, its culture, traditions, rituals, and customs. Apart from well-known architectural marvels such as Mukteswar Temple, Lingaraj Temple, and Dhauli, the itinerary shall encompass lesser-known heritage monuments as well.

Jadhav opined that the initiative by OTDC will not only promote Odisha's ancient architecture as part of heritage tourism but also educate and make the local populace aware & informed about Odisha's rich cultural legacy.

The "Odisha Walks will be organized from Friday to Sunday every week from 6:30am to 8:30am. A nominal registration charge of INR 50 has been kept for participation in the above heritage walks. The tickets for the tour can be booked on the website www.bookodisha.com or Book Odisha Mobile App, a single point booking engine for Odisha Tourism services and products which was recently launched during the 43rd Foundation Day of OTDC September 3.

'Patient First' programme at Shanti Memorial Hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Shanti Memorial Hospital celebrated the first anniversary of launching its 'Patient First' programme. In October last year, all staff members of the hospital were formally trained under the "Patient First" programme, to see and experience things through the eyes of the patients and decide what's best for the patient, keeping the patient's personal needs, wants, desires, and goals in mind, so that the individual becomes central to the care and treating process.

Managing Director of the hospital, eminent surgeon Sreejoy Patnaik addressed the employees on this occasion and appreciated their efforts for making such change which has improved patient delight manifold times. He said "With the diverse and complex demands from patients, giving quality & customized care now has a definite impact on health outcomes. It contributes to a more positive patient recovery experience and improves the physical and mental quality of life for people with illnesses."

Several employees who were



rated by patients received awards and promotional badges of Patient First Champions during the function. Medical Director and eminent surgeon Chitta Ranjan Das inspired the employees and advised to make people feel happy with continuous good behaviour. A fun spot quiz contest was also conducted for the employees to brighten up the session. Delighted employees shared their experiences gathered during the journey and narrated how patient first ideology has changed their vision, approach and work pattern. Pramod Pani- Head- Human Resource thanked each one for their active contribution. The programme was conducted by Head-Operations Paritosh Das.

Odisha braces for rain as LOPAR intensifies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Kolkata, Oct 22: A low-pressure area (LOPAR) over the north Andaman sea that Saturday intensified into a depression, around 1,460 km south-southeast of Sagar Island in West Bengal, is expected to take the shape of a cyclonic storm by October 24, the IMD said in its bulletin.

The weather system moved west-northwestward and concentrated into a depression Saturday at 8.30am, close to west of Andaman Islands, the bulletin said.

It is expected to move north-westward and intensify further into a deep depression over east-central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal by the morning of October 23. "The system is then very likely to re-curve gradually north-north-eastwards and intensify into a cyclonic storm over central Bay of Bengal by October 24 morning," the IMD stated.

Thereafter, it would continue to move north-northeastwards and cross Bangladesh coast, between Tinkona Island and Sandwip, around October 25 morning, the IMD forecast said.

The name 'Sitrang' has been proposed for the possible cyclonic



storm by Thailand.

The IMD has advised fishermen not to venture into the deep sea area of central Bay of Bengal from Saturday, and along and off Odisha and Bengal coasts between October 23 and 26.

Both Bengal and Odisha are likely to experience fairly widespread rainfall due to the weather system. According to Sanjib Bandopadhyay, the deputy director-general of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Kolkata, isolated places in North-24 Parganas and South-24 Parganas districts will get heavy to very heavy rain-

fall October 24.

Paschim Medinipur may experience heavy showers on that day. The following day, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas are likely to get heavy rainfall, Bandopadhyay said.

On both the days, Kolkata, Howrah and Hooghly may experience moderate rainfall, he maintained. "Wind speed of 45 to 55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is likely in the districts of South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas on October 24. The next day, the wind speed may reach 90 to 100 kmph, gusting to 110 kmph, in these districts,"

Bandopadhyay stated.

Ferry services have been suspended in Sundarban area, he said.

Water-based sporting activities, too, have been put on hold in the beach towns of Mandarmoni and Digha, Bandopadhyay added.

In Bhubaneswar, the Regional Meteorological Centre issued heavy rainfall warning for the districts of Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Cuttack, and Khurda. The Odisha government has kept its men and machinery ready as the weatherman predicted heavy rainfall in the state's coastal districts, said Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena.

"We have put authorities of eight districts on high alert. The state is ready to face the challenge," Jena explained. The SRC also said that the state government, as part of its preparedness, was in touch with different agencies such as the NDRF, Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, and Fire Services for rescue operations, if need be.

Jena added the cyclone was likely to go past Odisha coast, maintaining a distance of around 200 km from Dhamra Port.

Celebrate Diwali in eco-friendly way: Experts

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The festival of light, Diwali will be celebrated October 24 in the Capital city as well as across the state. People are busy purchasing firecrackers, lamps and electric lights to celebrate Diwali.

The Terracotta Exhibition at Ekamra Haat is getting footfall of people buying diyas for the occasion. To prevent any untoward incidents, the Commissionerate Police has issued guidelines on sale and bursting of firecrackers in the City.

As per the guidelines, the residents will be allowed to burst firecrackers only for a period of two hours from 8pm to 10pm.

With all this in view, OrissaPost talks to experts about how people should celebrate Diwali in these post-Covid times and with the danger of pollution still around.

Jaya Krishna Panigrahi, an environmentalist, said Diwali is



the festival of lights. Its celebration is deeply connected to our tradition and religious beliefs. From spiritual perspective, it symbolises victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. We light the house with lamps, offer puja or shradha to the ancestors and exchange sweets.

However, in course of time the use of firecrackers on this occasion has gained prominence, which has become the cause of serious concern. The use of metallic and non-metallic chemicals causes air pollution and high decibel noise, and also water and soil pollution. Time has come when we need to apply our wisdom to maintain the quality of

our environment by way of abandoning such destructive practices.

Sudarshan Chhotaray, an environmental activist said while it would be hard for everyone to celebrate this year's Diwali without noisy crackers. My suggestion would be to go for green crackers which are eco-friendly, use earthen lamps and eco-friendly candles, go for organic Rangoli, burst seed crackers which are alternative to fire crackers and are without any health hazards.

Amrit Patojoshi, health expert said, "There should be a complete prohibition on the use of crackers. The smoke emanating from burnt crackers may cause problems to patients suffering from COPD, asthma and also Covid patients.

"We need to learn from during pandemic during Diwali. People should celebrate the festival in their home with their dear ones in the traditional way."

75k appointment letters given in Rozgar Mela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Rozgar Mela - the recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel via video conferencing from New Delhi. During the ceremony appointment letters were handed over to 75,000 newly inducted appointees at 50 places across the country. The Prime Minister also addressed these appointees on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said that keeping in mind the 75 years of independence, the Central government is giving appointment letters to 75,000 youngsters under a programme. 493 youths were given appointment letters in East Coast Railway jurisdiction in various capacities. Out of this, 105 youths (92 from Railways and 13 from other Ministries) were offered appoint-



ment letters at the Rozgar Mela held at Cuttack Saturday.

Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti, Bishweswar Tudu graced the occasion at Saheed Bhawan, Cuttack and handed over recruitment letters to the newly recruited candidates. Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim also graced the occasion. Union Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan also joined the Rozgar Mela in Bhubaneswar where appointment letters were handed over to 239 inductees from Odisha. This will boost confidence, lift spirits and galvanise our youth, he said.

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Devotees worship goddess in chains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 22: Siddha Kali temple, an 800-year-old shrine situated on the Sidhamatha premises in old Keonjhar town, is abuzz with preparations running in full swing for Kali Puja and Diwali.

Uniquely, Maa Siddha Kali, the mother deity here who is said to be chained 800 years back to this date, is worshipped by the locals and devotees from the nearby areas with profound devotion every year.

The temple managed by the Endowment department attracts a huge number of devotees during Kali Puja and other festivals like Kartika Purnima, new moon day, Navaratri and Durga Puja which are celebrated here with pomp and gaiety.

Special rituals like 'Yagna' and 'Chandi Path' are solemnised here on the day of Kali Puja and on special days of worship of the deity.

Sidhamatha is a sacred place situated on the base of 'Chulia Hill' a naturally beautiful place, within the range of Gandhamardan hill, once the avenue of saints for meditation and rituals. The temple offers an ambience that suits the mystery and eeriness that one associates with goddess Kali.

"The saints were believed to be worshipping the deity with 'tantra and mantra.' People have deep faith on the deity and come here for the fulfillment of their wishes," said Sanjay Tripathy, the temple priest.

According to researchers,

800-YR-OLD SIDDHA KALI TEMPLE IN KEONJHAR



'Sidhamatha' was once a seat of 'tantric cult.' The former royals here used to seek the blessings of the deity before going on a war or on hunting expeditions.

The idol of Goddess Kali is made up of stone and has ten hands - each carrying a different article like a sword and the head of a man. The lower part of the idol, which looks like a skeleton and is made of granite stone, is embedded in the ground. The thumb of her left hand is in her mouth.

In this temple, Lord Shiva is called 'Mahakal' or 'Kaleswar.' He is said to be 'powerless' here and it is believed that the Goddess Kali embodies all his power or 'Shakti.' The lower part



of the stone sculpture is said to be embedded deep in the ground. Legend has it that a saint tied the deity with a chain so that she could not venture out. Some say, she was chained to protect people from her fury. Many devotees still fear to enter the temple to offer

worship and pray to the deity through a window, which remains open all the time.

"Devotees, from far and near, come here and pray to the goddess for fulfillment of their desires," said Sanjay Tripathy, the temple priest.

Despite its popularity, locals said the government had paid little attention to the upkeep of the place. At a time when the state government is spending crores of rupees for protection and preservation of ancient shrines having heritage value, it has forgotten to take any step for this ancient temple's preservation as a monument.

The temple has developed cracks over the years and rain water seeps through it due to lack of proper maintenance. The clothes of the deity get wet due to the water seepage in the temple. There is also no proper place to store the clothes of the goddess.

As a result, the temple premises is in a shabby condition while the structure is becoming weak with trees growing on the temple walls. It is also in an unsafe condition due to lack of proper maintenance. The Endowment department has appointed two priests, two cooks, an assistant and a doorkeeper to conduct and manage day to day rituals of the deity and provide services.

This has sparked resentment among the devotees. The Endowment department instead of taking proper repairing work of the temple has only made some cosmetic changes by painting the temple structure.

NATURE FRIENDLY LAMPS



Advent of colourful candles and multi-colour decorative lights has not robbed the sheen of earthen lamps till date as a potter at Bishnuchakra village under Buguda block in Ganjam district works on potter's wheels to churn out the nature friendly lamps ahead of Diwali, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Summoning ancestors from darkness to light



POST NEWS NETWORK

As per age-old tradition, Deepavali or Diwali is observed with worship of Goddess Kali. Odias have been following the tradition over centuries by decorating their houses with earthen lamps and preparing special 'bhog'. The attractive part of the celebration is a unique ritual on the evening of Diwali - 'Pimpeii Kathi Daaka.'

In the evening, all family members flock together near the Tulasi Chaura (a pillar-like structure with basil plant usually present in the courtyard of every Odia household), and a puja is solemnised. The ancestors are offered the 'bhog' and then the family members burn 'Pimpei' or 'Kauria Kathis' (jute sticks) while reciting a prayer: "Badabadua ho! andhare aasa, aalua re jaa; Baaisi pahacha re gadagadau thaa" (O our ancestors! Descend in the darkness and return on the illuminated path; and keep yourself rolling on the 22 steps of Srimandir).

As per tradition, the belief is that ancestors are summoned to descend from the nether world to bless their descendants on the earth. This ritual is also popularly known as 'Badabadua Daaka' in Odisha. In Puri, people gather in large numbers on the 22 steps of Jagannath temple and in front of the Singhadwar to offer 'shradha' or homage to their ancestors, offer 'Mahaprasad' to Brahmins. Then in the evening they burn 'Kauria Kathis', following the belief that it pleases the ancestors.



According to culture researchers, there is a belief that the coronation of Lord Ram was a very special occasion. All the living beings, Gods and the dead wanted to be part of the sacred ceremony. So the mortals on the earth ignited lamps and illuminated the paths so that their ancestors would find it easy to descend to the world from the world of the dead, which is supposed to be immersed in darkness. However, this ritual followed by Odias has close similarity with the Western festival of 'Halloween' or 'Day of the dead' in Mexico and other countries. Halloween, or All Hallows Eve, originally belonging to Roman Catholics used to be celebrated in ancient times by baking 'soul cakes' for the dead in purgatory and going door to door collecting those soul cakes in exchange for praying for the dead. People also make bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts on this night. Over the years Halloween evolved into a day of merry-making activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

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FOCUS ECONOMY

SELF-INFLICTED CATASTROPHE



Even as Indian workers faced poverty, hunger, and ever-greater material insecurity due to the pandemic, money and resources continued to flow from the poor and the middle class to the country's largest corporations and wealthiest individuals

than the most basic subsistence, losing even a week's income could lead millions to the brink of starvation. Given that more than 90 per cent of all workers in India are informal – without any legal or social protection – and that around half of those are self-employed, the effect was immediate and devastating.

The government's decision not to increase spending aggravated the shock of the lockdown, generating a humanitarian crisis that disproportionately affected women and marginalised groups, including millions of migrant workers who were forced to return home under harrowing conditions.

But the effects of the official response to the pandemic are only one side of the story. COVID-19 safety measures have been a natural fit for the country's still-pervasive caste system, which has long relied on forms of social distancing to enforce the socioeconomic order and protect those at the top. It also further entrenched India's persistent patriarchy.

Instead of taking appropriate countermeasures, like providing greater support to the population, the BJP used the pandemic to consolidate its power and suppress dissent. This, in turn, limited the central government's ability to generate the widespread social consensus and public trust needed to contain the virus.

None of this was inevitable. Even within India's deep-seated social and political constraints, there is scope for a different economic strategy that would enable a just, sustainable, and more equitable recovery. To ensure that most Indians, not just the stock market or large companies, benefit from growth, India's voters must reject the BJP's policies, which threaten to impoverish them further.

The writer, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

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Nearly 80 per cent of the estimated 70 million people around the world who fell into extreme poverty at the onset of COVID-19 in 2020 were from India, a recent World Bank report has revealed. But even this shocking figure could be an underestimate, as the lack of official data makes it difficult to assess the pandemic's human costs.

What accounts for this alarming rise in Indian poverty? COVID-19 was undoubtedly India's worst health calamity in at least a century. But the pandemic's economic and social consequences go beyond the direct effects on health and mortality. As I argue in my recent book, *The Making of a Catastrophe: The Disastrous Economic Fallout of the COVID-19 Pandemic* in India, very significant policy failures – owing to government action and inaction – were responsible for widespread and significant damage to Indian livelihoods and for the country's decline in terms of many basic indicators of economic well-being.

This judgement may seem excessively harsh. After all, India's government did not cause the pandemic, and many other countries experienced economic setbacks after they failed to control the virus. But the devastating impact of the pandemic on India has been compounded by economic policies that reflected the country's deeply-embedded inequalities.

To be sure, the pandemic did not create India's many economic vulnerabilities. But it did highlight India's many societal fissures and fault lines. And while the country already suffered from glaring inequalities of income, wealth, and opportunities long before COVID-19, the government's pandemic response has taken them to unimaginable extremes.

Even as Indian workers faced poverty, hunger, and ever-greater material insecurity due to the pandemic, money and resources continued to flow from the poor and the middle class to the country's largest corporations and wealthiest individuals. The intersecting inequalities of caste, gender, re-

ligion, and migration status have become increasingly marked and oppressive. The result has been a major setback to social and economic progress.

The grim state of affairs reflects the priorities of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) response. At the beginning of the pandemic, the central government imposed a prolonged nationwide lockdown with little notice. It then adopted containment strategies that were clearly unsuited to the Indian context, with immediately devastating effects on employment and livelihoods.

Instead of using the breathing space provided by the lockdown to bolster local health systems, the central government left state authorities to manage as best they could with minimal and inadequate resources. And when the

resulting economic disaster threatened to spiral out of control, the government eased restrictions to "unlock" the economy even as the number of cases mounted, thereby putting more people at risk.

But at the heart of India's self-inflicted economic catastrophe is the government's decision to provide very little compensation or social protection, even as COVID-19 lockdowns deprived hundreds of millions of their livelihoods for several months. At a time when governments worldwide were significantly increasing public spending to fight the pandemic and mitigate its economic impact, the Indian government preferred to control expenditures (after adjusting for inflation) as its revenues declined.

But in a country where median wages are too low to provide more



Jayati Ghosh

TO BE SURE, THE PANDEMIC DID NOT CREATE INDIA'S MANY ECONOMIC VULNERABILITIES. BUT IT DID HIGHLIGHT INDIA'S MANY SOCIETAL FISSURES AND FAULT LINES



Aakar Patel

It may interest readers to know that from its formation to the 1984 election, the BJP had no interest in Ayodhya

“This is purity, to accept no other influence but only the influence of the Divine.”

THE MOTHER



Saffron Evolution

The Bharatiya Janata Party has evolved over the years in an unusual manner, going from being conservative on social issues to radical. In its formative decades, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh even when under Atal Bihari Vajpayee showed itself to be hesitant to take up issues related to personal law. In its 1951 manifesto it said of Ambedkar's Hindu Code Bill that “the party holds that social reform should not come as imposition from above. It should work from within society. Any far-reaching changes as envisaged by the Hindu Code Bill therefore should not be made.”

What were these far-reaching changes? They were two. First, the inheritance of property by women, especially widows, and second, divorce. The BJP/BJS was opposed to the idea even after the laws were passed in watered-down fashion and it promised to repeal them. It would not allow women the right to divorce because, its 1957 manifesto reads, “indissoluble marriage has been the basis of Hindu society.” The party also assumed that joint families would remain forever and was opposed to modern inheritance laws.

This position on the Hindu Code fell away with time, because the laws were acceptable to society. Divorce is a sensible option where marriages have failed and the idea of marriage as a binding sacrament (‘for seven lives’) is not held by most Indians.

Given its conservatism on social issues, the party was initially hesitant to press on the Uniform Civil Code, which finds mention in its first five decades only once. In 1967, the party began dropping its opposition to the Hindu marriage and succession laws. It said it would enact a code to “govern the laws of marriage, adoption and inheritance of all Indian citizens.” But it had no enthusiasm for this and there was no reference to this again for the next quarter century.

It may interest readers to know that from its formation to the 1984 election, the BJP had no interest in Ayodhya. Though the idols had been smuggled into the Babri Mosque on the night of December 22 1949, only a few months before the formation of the Jana Sangh, the Ram temple had never been an issue for the party. The break came when the party sank in the 1984 elections and Vajpayee ceded the presidency to LK Advani. An unelected figure (being a creature till then of the Council and the Rajya Sabha), Advani did not appear to know how mass mobilisation worked. In his autobiography he writes that he was surprised at the massive mobs that gathered around his Rath Yatra after he took up the temple issue. Exultant at the response, the BJP's manifesto now made its first reference: “By not allowing the rebuilding of the Ram Jamma Mandir in Ayodhya, on the lines of Somnath Mandir built by the government of India in 1948, it has allowed tensions to rise, and gravely strained social harmony.”

The introduction of religion into politics by the BJP in 1989 cleaved India's electorate in a way it had not been before, and gave the BJP unprecedented electoral rewards. Advani won the party its first states and before him the BJP had no government in any state on its own before 1990. And of course the events of 1992 produced national dominance. The party's vote share had never been more than single digits till Ayodhya. It doubled first to 18 per cent and then doubled again.

The realisation came that an anti-Muslim thrust, rather than a Hindu conservative one, was a popular platform on which the party could mobilise. It was taken further. The Uniform Civil Code was now a permanent feature in the programme, with a specific attack on polygamy. The BJP went after Muslim divorce under Modi, but that was not satisfying because it could not produce polarisation.

Laws criminalising marriages between Hindus and Muslims came in the BJP states of Uttarakhanda (2018) and then Himachal Pradesh (2019), UP and MP (2020), Gujarat (2021) and Karnataka (2022).

The push for two-child laws in the BJP states of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka and the targeting of Muslims and polygamy will produce polarisation and will likely be rewarding. The BJP state units work in tandem. As an electorate we appear to be in thrall of such things, even at a time as this when the economy, unemployment and fuel prices are where they are. Today social reform from above is the flavour for the BJP.

It may also interest readers to know that in a parallel development the Jana Sangh/BJP has gone from being radical on criminal law and civil liberties to being conservative. In 1951, it said it would repeal Nehru's first amendment restricting freedom of speech, assembly and association because this was not civil liberty “as understood in democratic countries.” In 1954 and for years later it said it would repeal preventive detention laws (like UAPA and Public Safety Act) because they were “in absolute contravention of the principles of individual liberty.” The BJP has become the biggest champions of these laws now of course.

When it was not in power, when it had little hope of achieving power, the party stood for the rights of India's citizens over those of the State. Today when it is in control of the State, the BJP stands for the rights of the State over those of the individual.

WISDOM CORNER

- “Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.” **ALBERT EINSTEIN**
- “Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.” **KAHLIL GIBRAN**
- “What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.” **HELEN KELLER**

WORDSWORTH

■ Cascabel

You might judge the age and geographical origin of a dictionary by looking up the definition of this word. Modern ones, especially those with an American focus, are likely to tell you it's the name of a medium-hot chilli (though, being American, they will spell it chili, or sometimes chile). Older ones, especially British, will more commonly say it's the knob on the back end of a muzzle-loading cannon. The source in both cases is the same, the Spanish cascabel, which means a little round bell, a child's rattle, or a rattlesnake. Its origin is unknown, though it has been suggested it may be from the medieval Latin cascabellus, a little bell, or Latin scabellum, a kind of castanet played with the foot, which may be a diminutive of caccabus, a pot. The chilli was given its name by the Spanish in America because when dried the seeds inside rattle when it's shaken. The Spanish also named the protrusion on the cannon, from its shape. (It's there, by the way, so ropes or slings can be attached when the cannon is being moved.) The most famous association of cascabel is with the Victoria Cross, the highest British honour for bravery. It has often been claimed that all the crosses ever awarded have been cast from the bronze cascabels of two cannon captured from the Russians during the Crimean War of the 1850s, though recent research has thrown doubt on this.

SPECTRUM POLITICS

A steady hand as Cong braces for 2024

The election of Mallikarjun Kharge as the first non-Gandhi family President of the Congress in the 21st Century is good news not only for the party but also the nation as a whole. Kharge is a silent worker, a grassroots person and one who knows what it means to serve in the long run and not raise ill-founded noise like his opponent has done on losing the party election. The significance of this change cannot be overstated, and makes for a double Diwali celebration this time as the Congress works to present a cogent front against the BJP onslaught. It indicates that despite all that is said about family control in the party, which is not unfounded criticism of the Congress, the party and the family have been able to, albeit at a slow pace, rise to the occasion and bring change. True, this is only a beginning but change can begin small and carries the potential to become sweeping over time. Kharge may or not succeed. But we must wait and watch as we applaud a new beginning.

The more significant aspect of the change is the failure of the attempt to foist on the party non-leaders like Shashi Tharoor, representative of a set of people who have contributed almost zilch to the Congress and are now busy put-

ting on display an unseemly sideshow to distract and take attention away from a big moment for the party.

The second is the concerted attempt under way to discredit Kharge himself, calling him a “rubber stamp” or a Gandhi family stooge, even though his contribution over the years has been significant, his conduct through the process of the election has been impeccable and he has kept up dignity in the face of a candidate who hasn't exactly a record of any serious or meaningful contribution to any institution over the years. Kharge is a follower of Babasaheb Ambedkar and the 12th century philosopher-poet Basavanna, who professed gender equality, fighting for a just cause and was committed to social reform – all qualities that we need today and more so in Kharge's home state of Karnataka which is caught in a vortex of communalism.

Where does the Congress go from here?

The challenge before the Congress, and the nation, is unprecedented. Kharge will need to quickly take charge, assert himself and begin a stitching together of coalitions that will be needed as the BJP continues to flog the narrative that 2024 is in its bag already. If that game is not to be conceded

even before the battle begins, the Congress will need to quickly move on three fronts boldly and firmly.

First, the party will need to have a programme to go back to the people, a nation-wide hitting-the-road that is not unlike the Bharat Jodo Yatra that Rahul Gandhi has undertaken and is bringing a rather upbeat response from ordinary citizens, particularly the youth. Kharge may take a cue and ensure that every state has the machinery in place to run similar mini-yatras in the local areas to bring up burning issues before the people. There is nothing like a mass mobilisation call for a party that was seen as getting moribund.

Secondly, there will have to be work beginning now to stitch reasonable alliances that the Congress must build with like-minded parties. Here, it will need an approach that recognises that much has changed in India. The party can deliver some positive surprises if it reads the leaves well. Maharashtra is a good example of what the potential is. The way the Shiv Sena was broken has left a poor taste in Maharashtra. The breakaway faction led by CM Eknath Shinde, bolstered by the BJP, does not have a narrative to explain to the masses why they stayed in power under Uddhav Thackeray and suddenly

turned sides. The Congress will have to work with the Sena, which is a very different party today and is shaping up with narratives that are anything but communal and very different from what the Sena was known to be in its earlier avatars. Sharad Pawar's NCP will also have to be a part of the coalition, and in this the seniority of Kharge will help navigate the path.

Thirdly, Kharge must also assert himself, strike an independent path and must quickly bring in younger players into the party leadership. New faces, forceful voices and committed secular candidates can help bring in a sense of urgency and energy that will be required as the party heads into 2024. As he settles into the role, Rahul Gandhi must continue to be away from Delhi and spend his time at the grassroots. This is important if the message to every Congress worker is to do the same.

Doing all this and more does not indicate that a Congress revival is assured but it is the best bet on a journey that the party must undertake at this crucial time when the nation faces threats that it rarely has before.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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Jagdish Rattanani

THE CHALLENGE BEFORE THE CONGRESS, AND THE NATION, IS UNPRECEDENTED

Forests, peat lands at risk

Sir, Current methods of palm oil production often cause destruction of forests and peat lands. When deforestation and peat land drainage occur to make way for oil palm plantations, the sequestered carbon is released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, contributing to global warming. As demand for palm oil increases, tropical forests and peat lands—and the people and species that rely on them—are put at risk. For all these reasons, it is important to transform the industry by making smart decisions about where and how palm oil is produced. Oil palm plantations worldwide take up 40.6 million acres—a total area greater than the US state of Georgia. Approximately 85 per cent of palm oil is grown in Indonesia and Malaysia, much of it at the expense of forests. This destruction is devastating for local animals and plants, as well as local peoples who rely on these ecosystems for food and livelihood. Areas in Southeast Asia at risk of deforestation serve as a habitat for the Sumatran orangutan, elephant, and tiger, all of which are critically endangered, as well as for the endangered Bornean orangutan and pygmy elephant, among numerous other species. Many of these forest species are found nowhere else on Earth, and only about 15 per cent of them can also survive in oil palm plantations. The remedy is to stop plantation of oil palm trees.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Congress sets example

Sir, With the election of Mallikarjun Kharge as president, the Congress finally got a new, full-time, elected and out-of-Gandhi family party chief. The successful election for the post of national president in the Congress holds significance for all other parties as well. In this oldest party of the country, the national president has been elected many times by voting, but the importance of this election is more than ever at the juncture at which the Congress stands today. The performance of the Congress in the last two Lok Sabha elections has been really bad. The crushing defeats had in a way compelled Rahul Gandhi to step down from the post of president. Rahul was avoiding assuming the leadership and Sonia Gandhi was compulsively brought forward to provide leadership. Gradually there was pressure on the party leadership and remembering the healthy tradition, the party resorted to the election for the post of president. There is no doubt that the Congress has set an example before other parties.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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of the day quote

So much is being said about us. We are providing jobs to the unemployed. Is this jungle raj? Be that as it may, we are not going to be disheartened and will keep working on our promises

TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

What should I say on this...He (Prashant) keeps talking rubbish. He makes such statements just for his publicity. Everybody knows that he is working for which party

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

A special action plan for the permanent benefit of farmers will be prepared soon along with a host of measures that have been taken for the development of the agriculture sector in the last three months

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

Techie out with boyfriend gangraped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chaibasa (Jharkhand), Oct 22: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed Saturday to probe into the alleged gangrape of a 26-year-old software engineer in Chaibasa, 180 km from state capital Ranchi.

The engineer was allegedly raped by around 10 men near the old aerodrome in Chaibasa Thursday evening when she was out with her boyfriend on a two-wheeler, the police said. A group of eight-ten men stopped them, beat up her boyfriend, and allegedly raped the woman after taking her to a secluded spot, the police said.

After committing the crime, the accused left her at the spot and fled. They also took away her wallet and mobile phone. The woman managed to reach home and told her family about the incident after which they filed a police complaint.

Her medical check-up was conducted at the Sadar Hospital. Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) of Chaibasa Sadar, Jagannathpur, and the officer-in-charge of Mufassil police station are members of the SIT, West Singhbhum



Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said.

The incident happened at a secluded spot outside the township, the SP said. The woman's statement has been recorded, he said. "We have registered a case based on her statement and ensured her proper treatment," the SP said.

Twelve people were detained for interrogation in connection with the incident, Sub-Divisional

The poll dates were announced for Himachal Pradesh but not Gujarat so that the BJP can announce more populist schemes to woo voters in that state

SITARAM YECHURY | CPI (M) GENERAL SECRETARY

NUMBER OF SNOW LEOPARDS CROSSES 100

The number of snow leopards has increased to 121 in Uttarakhand, according to the latest census. State's Chief Wildlife Warden Samir Sinha said the 2022 snow leopard census was conducted on the orders of the Centre



15 dead in MP mishap



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rewa (MP), Oct 22: Fifteen persons were killed and 40 others injured after an Uttar Pradesh-bound private bus, mostly carrying labourers going home for Diwali, rammed into a trailer-truck from behind in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, officials said Saturday.

The accident occurred around 11.30 pm Friday near Teonthar town, when the bus was going to Gorakhpur from Hyderabad, they said. The bus, a sleeper coach, was negotiating a mountain road in Sohagi ghati, about 60 km from the district headquarters, when it rammed into the trailer-truck from behind on national highway (NH)-30, Rewa Superintendent of Police (SP) Navneet Bhasin said.

The trailer-truck suddenly applied brakes after it hit another vehicle ahead of it, due to which the bus crashed into the truck, he said. "Fifteen people were killed and 40

others injured in the accident. The victims were mostly labourers going home to Uttar Pradesh for Diwali. The bus also belonged to that state," he said.

The impact of the crash was so severe that the bodies of the bus driver and conductor had to be pulled out from the mangled front portion of the vehicle with the help of gas cutters, Bhasin said.

Rewa district collector Manoj Pushp said 12 persons were killed on the spot, and two others succumbed while being taken to a hospital from Teonthar to Rewa.

Later, one more person died at the hospital in Rewa, he said. After being alerted about the incident, police personnel from Sohagi rushed to the site and launched a rescue operation.

While most of the injured persons were admitted to a hospital in Teonthar, those who suffered serious injuries were shifted to Rewa, the SP said.

Job benefits for 15 new groups as J&K redraws social caste list

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 22: Jammu and Kashmir government Saturday issued a notification including 15 more castes that would now benefit through the 4 per cent reservation in jobs etc for socially backward classes.

As per the notification, 15 more castes have been included in the list of socially backward castes in Jammu and Kashmir. The now included social castes are Waghey (Chopan), Ghirath/Bhati/Chang community, Jat community, Saini community, Markabans/PonyWals, Sochi community, Christian Biradari (converted from Hindu Valmiki), Sunar/Swarankar/Teeli (Hindu Teeli along with already existing Muslim Teli), Perna/Kouro/Kaurav,

Bojru/Decount/Dubdabay Brahmin Gorkans, Gorkhas, West Pakistani refugees (excluding SCs) and Acharyasa.

Certain modifications have also been made in the existing social castes by substituting their names. According to the notification, poters (Kumhars), shoe repairers (working without the aid of machines), Bangies Khakrobes (Sweepers), barbers, washerman and Doms have been respectively replaced by Kumhars, Mochi, Bangies Khakrobes, Hajjam Atrai, Dhobi, and Doms (excluding SCs). The social caste list has been redrawn on the recommendations of the Jammu and Kashmir Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission which was constituted by J&K government in 2020.

Ghaziabad woman held for making up gangrape story

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ghaziabad (UP), Oct 22: A woman who had allegedly levelled a "fabricated" gangrape charge in an attempt to grab property was arrested Saturday, a day after police booked her and three of her accomplices for cheating and forgery.

The Delhi woman had claimed that she was kidnapped and raped by five men for two days. "The woman was arrested by our police team. She was presented before a magistrate to record her statement. The court has sent her to 14 days in judicial custody," Superintendent of Police (City-1) Ghaziabad Nipun Agarwal said.

Her accomplices Azad, Afzal and Gaurav were arrested earlier. Friday, police had said that the woman, Azad, Afzal and Gaurav have been booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections pertaining to cheating, forgery and fraudulently using genuine documents.

They have been charged under IPC sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) and 471 (fraudulently using as genuine document which the person knows or has reason to believe to be forged), Circle Officer, City-2, Ghaziabad, Alok Dubey, had said.

Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal Wednesday had said that the 36-year-old woman was found wrapped in a jute bag, with her hands and legs tied, and an iron rod was inserted in her private parts. However, during a press conference on Thursday, the Ghaziabad police dismissed as "fabricated" the woman's claim that she had been raped and brutalised by the five men and said a conspiracy had been hatched over a dispute over a "small" property.

Minor girl suffocates to death in eatery blaze

Pune: A six-year-old girl suffocated to death after a fire engulfed a biryani eatery in the busy Sadashiv Peth market area, here Saturday, police said. The blaze occurred around 10.45 a.m., triggered by a suspected LPG gas cylinder leak and quickly spread to the entire eatery and a small mezzanine floor above where the owner Naeem Khan and his family were staying. As Naeem Khan and other customers raised an alarm, his wife managed to clamber down with two kids to safety from the upper floor, while one girl, who was asleep there, remained trapped above due to the smoke. The fire brigade, which rushed to the spot, managed to rescue the girl - identified as Iqra Naeem Khan - and shifted her to a hospital. Though the victim, Iqra had not suffered any serious burns, she was declared dead during treatment and the cause is suspected to be the toxic fumes she may have inhaled while waiting for help. After battling the blaze for over two hours, the fire brigade managed to control it and investigations are on into the incident.

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'Over 1,500 archaic acts to be repealed'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, Oct 17: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants lesser government role in people's lives and the Centre will repeal more than 1,500 obsolete and archaic laws during the winter session of Parliament.

Obsolete laws are impediments in the normal life of common people and do not have relevance in the present time, nor deserve to remain in the statute books, Rijiju told mediapersons here. "It is the prime minister's desire to reduce the compliance burden of the people, to ensure that they can live as peacefully as possible. He wants less government role in the life of the common people," Rijiju said.

"We (NDA government at the Centre) have decided to remove all obsolete archaic laws from the statute as unnecessary laws are a burden to the common man. We have decided to revoke more than 1500 laws in the winter session of Parliament. I am ready to introduce many more repealment acts," he said.

Laws, he said, are meant to facilitate justice for the common people and not trouble them. They are meant to prescribe certain mechanisms to ensure that the life of common people is as normal as possible.

Rijiju praised for the NPP-led government in Meghalaya but expressed the desire that BJP be given more role in the BJP in the government for more benefit to the common people. Meghalaya Assembly poll is due in about four months' time.

Rijiju said the Centre is giving special focus to NE and there is no reason why the region will lag behind in any sector. "It is BJP's desire to make the northeast prosperous and India a powerful nation. "The party desires to fulfill the targets set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India prosperous and fully developed by 2047," he said.

The union minister said the home ministry is looking into the demand of the people to introduce ILP in Meghalaya to check outsiders to the state. "As ILP is a local demand, the government has to take a collective decision taking into account the larger interest of everyone around," he stated.

12 of Dalit family convert to Buddhism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan), Oct 22: Twelve members of a Dalit family in Rajasthan's Baran district have converted to Buddhism, allegedly upset over the assault of a family member by a man and the police's refusal to book the husband of the village sarpanch in the matter.

Police officer Puja Nagar said 12 members of the family of Rajendra of Bhulon village in the Bapcha police station area of Baran district embraced Buddhism on Friday. They took the oath of conversion and floated the idols and pictures of Hindu deities into the Baithli river of the village.

Everyone is free to choose any religion in the country, the police officer said, adding no other person in the village changed their religion. The Dalit family reportedly took the step of conversion after they failed to get the name of the sarpanch's husband incorporated as an accused in an assault case despite submitting a memorandum to the superintendent of police.

The police, however, said they found no evidence against the sarpanch's husband and added action would be taken against him if he was found involved in the matter. Rajendra, 32, lodged a case of assault against Lalchand Lodha of the same village on October 5, following which the police lodged a case under relevant sections of the IPC and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against the accused and arrested him, Puja Nagar said on Saturday.

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'Polluted air has cut J'khand life expectancy by 4.4 years'

Air in almost all the major cities of the rich state is polluted owing to industrialisation and mining



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Oct 22: The image of 'Jharkhand' that emerges in one's mind, considering its name, is that of a state surrounded by forests and shrubs which also gives an impression that the air quality in the state would be good. But the ground reality is completely different and the Air Quality Index (AQI) figures testify the same.

In Jharkhand, the average AQI at 3pm October 1 was recorded at 182, while that for the entire country during the same period was 136. The worst AQI was recorded at 252 October 20 at 8.37pm, while the best AQI was recorded at 112 at 2.35 pm October 21.

Air in almost all the major cities of the state is polluted. In January 2020, a report by Greenpeace India termed Jharkhand's Jharia city as the most polluted city in the country. In the report, prepared after the analysis of particulate matter (PM10) data in the atmosphere in 287 cities across the country, Dhanbad

was ranked as the second most polluted city in the country.

Jharia and Dhanbad are the largest coal producing regions of the country. Even, Dhanbad is called the coal capital of the country.

According to a study by Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), the life expectancy of people of Dhanbad has dropped by 7.3 years due to air pollution.

Similarly, as per the data released by Epic, an institution of the Chicago University, the air pollution reduces the life expectancy of people in the state by an average of 4.4 years. According to this report, Jharkhand is at number eight among the most polluted states of India.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) after studying the data from 2015 to 2019 had found that the air quality in 124 cities of the country is 'hazardous'. Dhanbad, Ranchi, Ramgarh and Jamshepur cities of Jharkhand were also included in this list of 124 cities.

In October, the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board has

launched Star Rating Programme to make common people aware of the pollution spreading from industrial units.

Under the programme, launched in partnership with EPIC India at the University of Chicago Trust, industrial units are being rated on the basis of air pollutants being emitted by them and the control measures these units are taking to deal with it. All details are being released on a dedicated website.

In total, details of 68 industrial units of Jharkhand are recorded on the website.

According to the website, in September, 36 out of these 68 industrial units were given 1 star rating, keeping them in the red or dangerous category. There are only 23 industrial units which have been given 5 star rating for pollution control measures. Similarly, five industries got 4 star rating, three industries received 3 star rating and one industry was rated 2 star.

The biggest reason for air pollution in Jharkhand is the open cast mines of coal. Coal companies like CCL, BCCL and ECL are giving more emphasis on coal production from open cast mines instead of underground. Open cast mines cause more pollution than underground.

According to the CCL website, there are a total of 43 mines out of which five are underground and 38 are open cast. More than a hundred mines have closed in Jharkhand in the last few years. Most of these are underground mines. Illegal mining of many minerals including coal, stone, bauxite, mica takes place on a large scale in the state. Due to these too, the poisonous pollutants are getting dissolved in the air every day.

The rapid pace of urbanisation has also affected the climate deeply



FESTIVE PREP: Workers transport a clay idol of Goddess Kali to a community puja pandal for worship ahead of the upcoming Kali Puja festival, in Kolkata

Deoghar peda makes int'l debut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Deoghar, Oct 22: The first international consignment of the famed peda was shipped out of Deoghar, the temple town in Jharkhand known for the Baidyanath Dham, an official said Saturday.



It was a proud moment for the people of Deoghar that Baidyanath Dham's pedas are now available globally, said Vinita Sudhansu, the deputy general manager of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). Deoghar's Deputy Commissioner Manjunath

Bhajantri said he had sent a sample of 2 kg peda to Bahrain through Jharkhand Co-operative Milk Federation in May.

It met all the required parameters in various quality tests, and the first international consignment of 32 kg of the sweet was exported Thursday to the country via Kolkata, he said.

Bhajantri said the district administration was working to promote all 'Made in Baidyanath Dham' products in the international market. Medha Diary of the Jharkhand Co-operative Milk Federation was issued the license for selling pedas in the international market, he said.

Bhajantri said various stakeholders, including District Industry Centre, APEDA and Medha Diary, worked in tandem for the commercial shipment of pedas.

Special focus was given on meeting quality parameters, packaging specifications and logistics, he said.

Biometric attendance for primary teachers' recruitment in Bengal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 22: Following several controversies over teacher recruitment at various levels, the West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBPE) has now decided to introduce biometric attendance system at the examination centres for recruitment of primary teachers in the state.

This will eliminate chances of a third person appearing for the written test on behalf of any candidate. This will be in addition to the decision already taken for video-recording the entire recruitment process, starting from written examination to marking of the optical mark recognition (OMR) sheets, interview and finally the counselling process.

Sources in the Education department said that newly-appointed WBPE President, Gautam Pal, wants to bring about total transparency in the entire recruitment process so that there is no chance for complaints on malpractices at a later stage.

Pal was offered the post after his predecessor and Trinamool Congress legislator Manik Bhattacharya was removed following an order of the Calcutta High Court.

Bhattacharya is in the custody

This will be in addition to the decision already taken for video-recording the entire process of recruitment

of Enforcement Directorate now. Pal in his first press conference after assuming the chair said that his priority is to make the recruitment process free of corruption through the introduction of absolute transparency in the system.

These moves to ensure transparency have been mooted at a time when former state education minister, Partha Chatterjee, and several top officials of the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) are in judicial custody for their alleged involvements in the teacher recruitment scam.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has recently submitted a charge-sheet to the Calcutta High Court where it pointed out cases where marks of ineligible candidates even submitting blank OMR sheets were as high as 53 in the server of WBSSC.

Tree hospital: Unique teacher-student joint initiative in Hooghly

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 22: Iconic Indian scientist and botanist, Jagadish Chandra Bose pioneered the thought that plants are like any other life form. Inspired by that thought, the teachers and students of Balagarh Bijoy Krishna College in Hooghly district of West Bengal have started a unique "Tree Hospital".

Principal of the college, Pratap Banerjee told IANS that often people plant trees out of fascination but forgetting that fact that only planting saplings are not enough since they also need proper nourishment and at times treatment just like human beings.

"Often, house owners who plant trees within their residences face a variety of problems relating to the health of the plants like yellowing, wilting or dying leaves, dark spots of leaves, trunk and branch cankers, fungal accumulation and dying trunks," he added.

In such cases the plant-owners resort to replacement of the ailing trees or plants without understanding that like human bodies such plant ailments can be cured as per advice of professional arborists.

The tree hospital started by the college will exactly serve that purpose, where the plant and tree owners can contact them and get

their plants treated and nourished so that instead of replacement the same old plant or tree can survive in good conditions.

Besides providing treatment facilities for the trees, the proposed tree hospital, which will have a number of arborists, will also provide advisory services, so that the plant or tree owners will provide healing services as per the advice of the experts.

Banerjee also said that the Balagarh area is the nursery hub of the district.

"However, many of them do not have the technical expertise on how plant diseases can be treated. So, our project is basically aimed at educating these nursery owners about the common plant diseases and how to heal them. The members of the local nature club and West Bengal Nursery Association have also partnered with us. We have started it in a small way but surely together we can achieve our goal for a greener world," Banerjee said.

Arborists are of the opinion that the health of the trees or plants is drastically affected by the attacks of insects and pests.

What is necessary in this regard is identification of the nature of pest infection after evaluating their symptoms and accordingly draw out an effective treatment plan.

No PM-Kisan benefit for over 15L J'khand farmers



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Oct 22: The financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) has been discontinued for over 15.27 lakh people in Jharkhand as they fail to provide the necessary documents.

The Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Ministry has sought a report on beneficiaries

from all the states including Jharkhand.

The government is also identifying those who fraudulently took the benefits under the scheme. The amount paid to such people will be recovered by the government.

In Jharkhand, as many as 15.27 lakh beneficiaries, who either have not submitted the land documents or have not updated the KYC, are

under the government's radar.

Out of these 15.27 lakh beneficiaries, 11.2 lakh people have not submitted the land documents while 4.07 lakh farmers have not updated the KYC.

In May 2019, over 30.97 lakh farmers had registered under the scheme in the state. They were also paid the financial benefit till four to six installments. But now the government has stopped sending the financial aid to 15.27 lakh people as they failed to provide the required documents.

In several districts, the administration has served notice to those who have taken the benefit wrongfully. However, those farmers who will get their KYC updated will start getting the financial benefit.

Till March, more than Rs 4,350 crore has been transferred to ineligible beneficiaries under the PM-Kisan scheme across the country. Rs 296.67 crore was recovered from such beneficiaries.

'Fewer jobs push J'khand, Bengal women to marry early'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

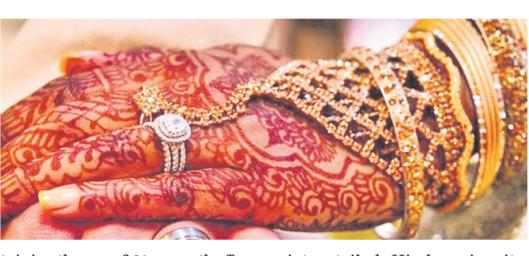
Kolkata/Ranchi, Oct 22: The findings by a Central government study that over half of the women get married before attaining 21 years in Jharkhand and West Bengal also revealed that the scope for sustainable job opportunities for young women is limited, experts said.

It is also clear from the findings that the benefits of government schemes are not reaching the desired section of the population, they said.

However, some experts expressed doubts about the data authenticity given that the survey was conducted during the Covid pandemic.

It was found in the study, the report of which was published late last month, that Jharkhand and West Bengal are the only two states in the country where more than half of the women are married before they are 21 years old.

While 54.9 per cent of girls are married in West Bengal before at-



taining the age of 21 years, the figure for Jharkhand is 54.6 per cent as against the national average of 29.5 per cent.

"Women, particularly in rural areas, face a lot of problems. They do not get decent sustainable employment. And then parents have only one option left - to marry them off," said Deepika Pandey Singh, a Congress legislator, who has launched a crusade against early marriages in Jharkhand.

Early marriage is prevalent in all sections of Jharkhand so-

ciety - tribal, Hindu, minority, educated, uneducated, rich or poor. Consistent efforts are needed to create awareness among them, Singh told PTI.

She was echoed by Sukanya Sarbadhikari, Professor of Sociology at Kolkata's Presidency University.

"Due to limited sustainable job opportunities for a young woman in rural areas, she and her parents might be looking for the option to get her married off as they can't wait for a longer period for her to

become economically independent," Sarbadhikari said.

As some parts of West Bengal are contiguous with Jharkhand, the situation could be similar on this issue in those areas, she told PTI.

It speaks volumes about the lopsided development in these states. It reveals that there must be some part of the population which is still away from the benefits of the state and central government policies, said Alok K Gupta, Associate Professor and Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central University of Jharkhand.

Institutional failures at different levels of policy formulations and implementation are clear, he told PTI. "It reveals that even after 75 years of independence, our policy interventions towards women empowerment and laws on prohibition of child marriage, enhancement of girls' enrolment ratio at educational institutions have not delivered

the way they should have done," Prof Gupta said.

Chairperson of the West Bengal Commission for Women, Leena Gangopadhyay, said, "All that I can say is that I personally visit all the districts and my experience doesn't corroborate the findings flagged in the report."

"There can be a tendency to marry off girls early in a few cases in two-three districts but whenever that is brought to our knowledge, we take immediate action to thwart it," she said.

Projects like Kanyashree have done a lot in helping girls of West Bengal voice their views strongly, Gangopadhyay added.

However, some of those PTI talked to on the issue wondered how the survey was done in 2020 when the country was in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic and conducting fieldwork would have been impossible for a considerable time.

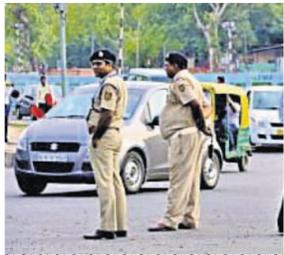




The Centre's blunt refusal to provide cash incentive to farmers in Punjab for not burning crop residue has impacted the campaign against stubble burning in the agrarian state
GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

NO FINE FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

The Gujarat government has announced that people will not be fined for violation of traffic rules during the Diwali festival this year. Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi made this announcement Friday



of the day quote

If the people of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat give (us) a chance, we will implement OPS (old pension scheme) there too
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

I assure the families of the martyred policemen that the government has always been taking all necessary steps with full sensitivity for their welfare and fulfillment of all their needs and will continue to do so
YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

I have only one question, the state government led by Mamata Banerjee is taking action against those who were protesting against the teacher recruitment scam. But, why was no action taken when Partha Chatterjee perpetrated this scam? When officials of this department indulged in wrongdoings, why was no action taken against them?
SMRITI IRANI | WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Cop's daughter held

New Delhi: The daughter of a police officer was arrested after she allegedly hit a 34-year-old parking attendant with her car at south Delhi's Saket Mall, police said Saturday. The matter came to light after the parking attendant, who was injured in the accident, filed a complaint on Thursday. According to the complaint, the accident occurred around 9.35 pm on October 16, a senior police officer said. When the attendant was handing over a car to a customer, another car came out of the parking area, hitting him. The parking attendant suffered injuries in his legs, the police said citing the complaint. He is undergoing treatment at the Max Hospital.

7 injured in blast

Bhopal: Seven persons were injured, two of them seriously, in a blast that occurred when petrol was being filled in the container of a tanker at a Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's (BPCL) depot on the outskirts of Bhopal, an official said Saturday. The incident took place Friday evening at the oil depot located in Bakania area, Khajuri police station in-charge Sandhya Mishra said.

Woman killed

Kannur (Kerala): A 23-year-old woman was allegedly hacked to death at her residence in a village near Panur in this north Kerala district Saturday, police said. The deceased, identified as Vishnupriya, was found dead at her residence in Vallyyail at around noon, they said. The victim was found lying in a pool of blood. There was a deep cut on her neck.

PM kicks off 'Rozgar Mela' Use Prasar Bharati route: Centre to states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Rozgar Mela" Saturday to recruit 10 lakh people and underscored his government's efforts to create jobs in the last eight years amid the opposition's constant criticism of it on the issue of unemployment.

In his address after more than 75,000 people were given appointment letters for various government jobs in the first tranche, Modi acknowledged the challenges facing the economy the world over with many countries hit by a record inflation and unemployment and said India is making every effort to come out of the situation unscathed.

"It is a fact that the global scenario is not very good. Several large economies are struggling. In many countries, problems such as inflation and unemployment are at their peak," he said. No one thinks that the side-effects of the once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic will go away in 100 days, the prime minister said, adding that the crisis is grave and global, causing adverse effects all around.

"Despite this, India is taking new initiatives and some risks to shield our country from being affected by these problems. It is a challenging job, but with your blessings, we have been protected till now," he said, adding that it was



A qualified candidate poses for photos with a cutout of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after receiving his appointment letter during the launch ceremony of 'Rozgar Mela' in Bhopal
PTI PHOTO

It is a fact that the global scenario is not very good. Several large economies are struggling. In many countries, problems such as inflation and unemployment are at their peak. No one thinks that the side-effects of the once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic will go away in 100 days

NARENDRA MODI | PM

made possible as his government dealt with the shortcomings that were a hindrance to the economy

The efficiency of the government departments has increased manifold and India has now leapt from being the 10th biggest economy to occupy the fifth spot in the world in the last eight years, Modi said. In his speech to the new appointees, Modi cited numerous measures taken by the government, including the push to the manufacturing, infrastructure and tourism sectors, to boost employment opportunities.

Unemployment has been a major plank of the opposition in several state elections as it has accused the government of failing to create adequate employment opportunities. The government has rejected the claim, with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) citing its vic-

tories in most of the poll contests to counter the charge.

Modi cited the record amount of loan given under the "Mudra" scheme, which funds prospective entrepreneurs, and noted that the assistance to the tune of more than ₹3 lakh crore during the pandemic helped avert a crisis to over 1.5 crore jobs in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

He said the Centre is working on multiple fronts to create maximum job opportunities for youngsters and asserted that the "Rozgar Mela" is an important milestone in the efforts to create employment and self-employment in the last eight years.

The government is also working to boost agriculture, MSME and other sectors with a stress on upgrading the skills of youngsters. More than 1.25 crore people have been trained under Skill India, the prime minister said.

Modi had directed various ministries and departments in June to recruit more than 10 lakh people in the next 18 months. Though his government has been generating employment for eight years, keeping in mind the 75th year of independence, it was decided that the Centre will give appointment letters to 75,000 youngsters on Saturday, the prime minister said.

The advisory is likely to impact Kalvi TV, an educational channel launched by the Tamil Nadu government which is available on some DTH platforms, and IPTV, launched by the Andhra Pradesh government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: The Centre has issued an advisory asking Union ministries, state governments and union territory administrations not to enter into any broadcasting or distribution of broadcasting activities directly.

In the advisory, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting asked those broadcasting their content to route it through Prasar Bharati. It also asked entities distributing the broadcasting content to "extract themselves" from it by December 31, 2023.

The advisory is likely to impact Kalvi TV, an educational channel launched by the Tamil Nadu government which is available on some DTH platforms, and IPTV, launched by the Andhra Pradesh government.

"No Ministry/Department of the Central Government and State/UT Governments and entities related to them shall enter into broadcasting/distribution of broadcasting activities in future," said the advisory issued on Friday. "In case Ministries of Central



Government, State/UT Government and entities related to them are already broadcasting their content, it shall be done through the Public Broadcaster," it said. "In case Ministries of Central Government, State/UT Government and entities related to them are already distributing the broadcasting content, they will be required to extract themselves from the distribution activities," it stated.

Entry No. 31 in List I (Union List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India covers "posts and telegraphs, telephones, wireless, broadcasting and other like forms of communication". Only the central government, as per Article 246 of the Constitution, can legislate on such subjects, the advisory said.

JACQUELINE TRIED TO FLEE, DESTROY EVIDENCE: ED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 22: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed that Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez had deleted evidence from her cell phone, and also tried to leave the country.

The ED made this submission while opposing the actor's bail plea in connection with a money laundering case pertaining to Rs 200 crore extortion matter involving multimillionaire conman Suresh Chandrashekhar, an official said Saturday.



The IANS is in possession of ED documents which confirm that she had deleted data from her cell phone.

"She admitted deleting crucial evidence on her phone and further had told others to delete the evidence which amounts to tampering of evidence. She also tried to flee abroad," the ED has claimed.

The ED said that during the investigation it emerged that Jacqueline enjoyed the proceeds of crime which the main accused (Suresh Chandrashekhar and Leena Maria Paul) obtained by the route of extortion from Aditi (wife of Shivinder Singh).



Workers wash the 40-feet model of veena at Lata Mangeshkar Chowk during the festive season in Ayodhya
PTI PHOTO

Arunachal chopper crash: Pilots made mayday call

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Just before the Army's Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) crashed near Tuting in Arunachal Pradesh, its pilots sent a 'mayday' call to the air traffic control suggesting a technical failure in the aircraft, military officials said on Saturday.

Four Army personnel were killed and one was reported missing after the twin-engine weapon system integrated (WSI) version of the indigenously-built helicopter went down at Migging village in Upper Siang district of the border state at 10.43 am on Friday. A 'mayday' call refers to a distress call over radio communication by pilots



The officials said the weather around Tuting was good for flying operations Friday and the two pilots had a combined experience of flying for more than 1,800 hours

to the air traffic control in case of emergency. "Prior to the crash, the Air Traffic Control (ATC) had received a mayday call suggesting a technical or mechanical failure. This will form the focus of the Court of Inquiry (CoI)," said an official. The Army headquarters ordered a CoI to investigate the causes of the accident.

The officials said the weather around Tuting

was good for flying operations on Friday and the two pilots had a combined experience of flying for more than 1,800 hours.

"It is reported that the weather was good for flying operations. The pilots had more than 600 combined flying hours on ALH (weapon system integrated version) and over 1,800 service flying hours between them," the official said.

Derecognition of school lands students in a quandary

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Oct 22: The decision of Telangana government to derecognise a school in Hyderabad after an uproar over the alleged sexual assault on a four-year-old girl has created uncertainty about the education of 700 children studying at the school.

The parents of these children were worried about their academics as the government proposes to shift them to other recognised schools. District Education Officer (DEO), Hyderabad was holding meetings with the parents to allay their apprehensions. The parents have mooted the sug-

gestion that instead of derecognising the school, the government set up a committee to run the institution at least for the current academic year.

Education minister P. Sabitha Indra Reddy on Friday ordered the DEO to revoke the permission given to the school and accommodate the students in other schools of their choice in the jurisdiction.

Officials had said that students in the school in Banjara Hills would be shifted to the nearby schools taking the parents into confidence. The parents of each student would be requested to identify their choice of school in their vicinity so that officials could make



the transfer arrangements.

The education department has asked the management to reimburse the fee paid by the students so that they can be accommodated in other schools. However, the parents feel that shifting their wards to other schools will upset their academic schedule and

they may find it difficult to adjust themselves in new schools.

The sexual assault on LKG student at the school located in Banjara Hills has triggered public outrage. The police on Tuesday arrested driver of the school principal and the next day took the principal into custody for negligence.

The incident came to light after the parents of the victim noticed behavioural changes in her. When enquired, she told them that Rajani Kumar had been sexually assaulting her for last three months.

He used to take her from classroom to digital classroom. Sometime, the accused took her to inside room of the school, removed her clothes and sexually assaulted her. The 34-year-old has been booked under section 376 A and B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 6 read with 5 (m) of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA- MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY PETROLEUM & EXPLOSIVES SAFETY ORGANISATION (PESO) (Formerly Department of Explosives)

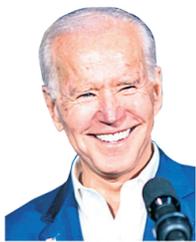
WARNING
It is brought to the notice of all Public that Government of India vide Notification No. G.S.R.682 (E), dated 05.10.1999 has prohibited the manufacture, sale or use of Fire Crackers generating noise level exceeding 125 dB (A1) including Joint fire crackers (Garland). The manufacture, sale or use of such fire crackers is illegal and anyone found violating is liable for necessary action under the Statutory Rules. For Safety during deepavali festival, observe the following precautions:

- ### DO's
- By the fireworks, manufactured in compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court directives from the reliable sellers possessing licence.
 - Always an adult should supervise the use of fireworks.
 - Safety precautions marked on the fireworks should be strictly followed.
 - Use a candle or an agarbathi to ignite the fireworks.
 - Always keep a bucket of water at hand to extinguish an incipient fire.
 - Aerial fireworks should be used in a safe landing zone.
 - Dispose off fireworks properly by soaking them in water.

- ### DON'Ts
- Manufacture, Sale or use of fireworks generating noise exceeding 125 dB(A1) or 145 PK at 4 mtr. distance from point of bursting is prohibited. For individual fire cracker constituting the series (joint crackers) the above-mentioned limit to be reduced by 5 log 10 (N) dB where N is equal the number of crackers jointed together.
 - Do not burst sound emitting firecracker between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Never ignite fireworks while holding them. Keep the fireworks at ground level, ignite and walk away.
 - Don't light fireworks by keeping them inside any containers.
 - Never ignite aerial fireworks where overhead obstructions, viz. trees, leaves, wires etc. may distract the trajectory into open air space. Neverignite aerial firewoks close to a building, so as to avoid entry of Fireworks through the door, window etc., which may cause fire inside the building.
 - Never use fireworks inside the house.
 - Do not use fireworks on the public thoroughfare.
 - Never experiment or make your own fire works.
 - Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water).
 - Do not use spurious / illegal fireworks.
 - Do not allow children to use fireworks alone.

**Government of India
Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)
(Formerly Department of Explosives)
Issued in the interest of Public Safety.**

international



I have not made that formal decision but it's my intention, my intention to run again, and we have time to make that decision
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

JAN 6 PANEL SUBPOENAS TRUMP

The House committee investigating the Jan 6 attack on the US Capitol formally issued an extraordinary subpoena to Donald Trump Friday, demanding testimony from the former president who lawmakers say "personally orchestrated" a multi-part effort to overturn the results of the 2020 election



of the day quote

The US government's sanction madness has turned into a virus swiftly being transferred to its friends (Canada)
NASSER KANAANI | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, IRAN

The summit agreement sets out a solid roadmap to keep on working on the topic of energy prices
URSULA VON DER LEYEN | PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

We would be an important source of help for China in terms of software development. So, we are working together to set up training centres in Pakistan for developing software in different fields of IT
MOINUL HAQ | AMBASSADOR TO CHINA, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

US 2022 budget deficit halves

Washington: The US government Friday reported that its fiscal 2022 budget deficit plunged by half from a year earlier to \$1.375 trillion, due to fading Covid-19 relief spending and record revenues fueled by a hot economy, but student loan forgiveness costs limited the reduction. The US Treasury said the \$1.400 trillion reduction in the deficit was still the largest-ever single-year improvement in the US fiscal position as receipts hit a record \$4.896 trillion, up \$850 billion, or 21% from fiscal 2021. President Joe Biden touted the deficit reductions in remarks at the White House and at Delaware State University, and said the deficit would shrink by another \$250 billion over the next decade.

2 missing Indians killed in Kenya

Nairobi: Two Indians who went missing in Kenya in July this year, have been killed by the disbanded Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) unit, a close aide of President William Ruto claimed. Dennis Itumbi said in a Facebook post that Zulfikar Ahmad Khan and his friend Mohamed Zaid Sami Kidwai were part of the Kenya Kwanza digital campaign team, and contributed immensely to the success of Ruto's campaign.

Taliban forces kill 6 IS ultras

Kabul: Taliban forces stormed an Islamic State (IS) hideout in Kabul and killed six terrorists, an Afghan government spokesman said Saturday. "Forces of Special Units of Islamic Emirate spotted a hideout of 15 militants yesterday (Friday) and arrested two operatives and after that stormed their hideout in Police District 8 as a result six insurgents were killed earlier today," the Taliban-led government's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Apple Watch helps detect rare cancer

San Francisco: An Apple Watch has reportedly been credited with spotting a 12-year-old girl's rare cancer before she was even aware of it, with the help of its heart rate notifications feature. As reported by Hour Detroit, Imani Miles and her mother Jessica Kitchen now view the Apple Watch as more than just a gadget. Imani's mother, Jessica, noticed that her daughter's Apple Watch started beeping constantly, alerting Imani to an abnormally high heart rate. The concerned mother took her daughter to the hospital, where doctors noticed a tumour in her appendix.

UK LEADERSHIP RACE

Sunak frontrunner for PM

WITH THE CONSERVATIVES HOLDING A LARGE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT AND ABLE TO IGNORE CALLS FOR A GENERAL ELECTION FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS, THE NEW PARTY LEADER WILL BECOME PRIME MINISTER - BRITAIN'S FIFTH IN SIX YEARS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, Oct 22: British Conservative politician Rishi Sunak late Friday reached the minimum threshold to run for party leader, as former Prime Minister Boris Johnson targeted an audacious comeback. Cabinet member Penny Mordaunt became the first to formally declare her candidacy, after the UK's ruling party was forced into a second leadership contest following the dramatic resignation of Prime Minister Liz Truss. "Honoured to be the 100th Tory MP to support #Ready4Rishi," senior backbencher Tobias Ellwood tweeted, as other backers of Sunak also said he had crossed the barrier. Sunak will automatically become party leader and prime minister if his opponents fail also to win 100 nominations from their fellow Tory MPs.

Security minister Tom Tugendhat, who ran for leader himself after Johnson was toppled in July, issued a thinly veiled appeal to the scandal-tainted ex-leader to stay out of the race. "This is no time for political games, for settling scores, or for looking backwards," Tugendhat said as he also endorsed Sunak late Friday. Neither Sunak nor Johnson has publicly declared they are running. But Johnson cut short a Caribbean holiday to take part in the accelerated contest, which will see Tory MPs hold a vote Monday before a possible online ballot for party members next week.

James Duddridge, one of Johnson's closest allies in parliament, said he had been in contact with his old boss via WhatsApp. "He said... We are going to do this. I'm up for it," the MP said, as a Sky News reporter posted a photograph apparently showing Johnson on a flight home from the Dominican Republic. "Fresh start"

The Sunak and Johnson camps are reportedly seeking talks to see if there is scope for a unity deal - although there is plenty of bad blood since the former prime minister's defenestration. Mordaunt, who just missed out on making the final runoff after Johnson quit, said she was running for "a fresh start, a united party and leadership in the national interest".

But polling company YouGov found that three in five voters now want an early general election, in line with demands from opposition parties, as Britons struggle with a worsening cost-of-living crisis. Labour and other parties argue

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- MORDAUNT BECOMES FIRST TO DECLARE INTENTION TO RUN
- CANDIDATES NEED TO REACH TARGET OF 100 NOMINATIONS
- FORMER-PM JOHNSON RETURNS TO UK AS CONTEST HEATS UP
- BRITONS STRUGGLE WITH A WORSENING COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

Boris asks Sunak to stand down to save party

Rishi Sunak may be the frontrunner to become the next UK PM, but Boris Johnson is urging him to stand down and let him come back to replace Liz Truss, reports in British media say. Liz Truss had replaced Johnson barely six weeks ago after defeating Rishi Sunak in the Conservative Party leadership race. Sunak, a former finance minister, is now the logical next choice, at least according to bookmakers. But Boris Johnson is making a larger point to Conservative MPs - that only he can save the party from facing defeat in the elections due in December 2024, said a report in The Telegraph, London. Boris Johnson is now "pressing Rishi Sunak to reach out and get back together", said the Telegraph report, terming it "a remarkable olive branch after their public falling out".

only an election can end the months of political chaos, sparked when Johnson was himself forced out after non-stop personal and political scandal. In the resultant contest, Truss won the support of just over 80,000

Tory party members, defeating Sunak, who correctly warned that her right-wing programme of debt-fuelled tax cuts would crash the economy. Truss announced Thursday she was quitting after just 44 tempestuous days in office.

China reaffirms Xi's dominance



Xi is poised to clinch a third five-year leadership term as party general secretary, breaking with precedent and solidifying his place as China's most powerful ruler since Mao Zedong

REUTERS

Beijing, Oct 22: China's ruling Communist Party wrapped up its twice-a-decade congress Saturday, cementing Xi Jinping's iron grip on power and revealing a new Central Committee missing two key officials lacking close ties to the leader. Xi, 69, is poised to clinch a third five-year leadership term as party general secretary, breaking with precedent and solidifying his place as China's most powerful ruler since Mao Zedong, the founding leader of the People's Republic. The new leadership will be unveiled at around noon Sunday when Xi walks into a room of journalists at the Great Hall of the People, followed by the other members of the new Standing Committee in descending order of rank. In an unusual moment during the closing ceremony, former President Hu Jintao, seated next to Xi, was escorted off the stage. Looking distressed, Hu, 79, appeared to resist leaving as stewards escorted him out. He had looked slightly unsteady last Sunday when he was assisted onto the same stage. The party's new 205-member Central Committee, elected by delegates at the end of the week-long congress, did not include outgoing Premier Li Keqiang or former Guangdong party boss Wang Yang, who had been seen as a potential replacement as premier. Analysts said their omissions were signs the powerful Politburo Standing Committee, to be revealed Sunday, is likely to be stacked with people close to Xi. "The main theme of this congress, as seen in the constitutional amendment and the report, is to highlight the core status of Xi," said Chen Gang, senior research fellow at the East Asian Institute in Singapore. "With this congress, Xi's authority grows even more. Going forward, we will see more con-

centration of power around Xi and around the centre," he said. Li, who will step down in March as premier, and Wang, who heads the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, are both 67 and therefore eligible to serve another five years on the Standing Committee, which currently has seven members.

SHOW OF HANDS
The party approved amendments to its constitution aimed at cementing the core status of Xi and the guiding role of his political thought within the party, which has about 96 million members. Among the amendments, the "Two Establishes" define Xi as the "core" leader of the party and his ideas as the guiding principles of China's future development. The "Two Safeguards" assure Xi's "core" status within the party and the party's centralised authority over China. Another amendment enshrined "developing fighting spirit, strengthening fighting ability" in the party constitution, while a call to oppose and deter separatists seeking independence for Taiwan was also included for the first time. Voting was conducted by show of hands in Beijing's vast Great Hall of the People, where much of the week's proceedings have taken place behind closed doors. The congress concluded with a military band playing "The Internationale", a socialist anthem. At its first plenum Sunday, the party's new Central Committee will choose the next Politburo, which is typically 25 people, and its new Standing Committee. Xi's power appears undiminished by the events of a tumultuous year, including a sharp economic slowdown, frustration over his zero-Covid policy, and China's increasing estrangement from the West, exacerbated by his support for Russia's Vladimir Putin.

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Passengers' families deemed crime victims in Boeing crashes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Worth, Oct 22: A federal judge ruled Friday that relatives of people killed in the crashes of two Boeing 737 Max planes are crime victims under federal law and should have been told about private negotiations over a settlement that spared Boeing from criminal prosecution. The full impact of the ruling is not yet clear, however. The judge said the next step is to decide what remedies the families should get for not being told of the talks with Boeing. Some relatives are pushing to scrap the government's January 2021 settlement with Boeing, and they have expressed anger that no one in the company has been held criminally responsible. Boeing, which misled safety regulators who approved the Max, agreed to pay \$2.5 billion including a \$243.6 million fine. The Justice Department agreed not to prosecute the company for conspiracy to defraud the government. The Justice Department, in explaining why it didn't tell families about the negotiations, argued that the relatives are not crime victims. The first Max crashed in Indonesia in October 2018, killing 189, and another crashed five months later in Ethiopia, killing 157.

Meloni sworn in as Italy's 1st woman Prime Minister

Meloni's govt, the 12th this century, replaces a national unity administration piloted by former European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi, who was at the forefront of European Union efforts to sanction Russia after it invaded Ukraine in February

REUTERS

Rome, Oct 22: Giorgia Meloni was sworn in as Italy's first woman prime minister Saturday along with her cabinet team, giving the country its most right-wing government since World War Two. She takes office at an especially fraught moment, with Italy's debt-laden economy once again heading into recession, firms buckling under the weight of soaring energy bills, and splits within her coalition over the war in Ukraine. Standing beneath the crystal chandeliers of a frescoed chamber in the presidential palace, Meloni took her oath of office as her



6-year-old daughter looked on. Head of the nationalist Brothers of Italy, Meloni swept to victory in an election last month as part of a coalition that included Forza Italia, led by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, and Matteo Salvini's anti-immigrant League. While Meloni has pledged support for Ukraine, Berlusconi has repeatedly undercut her, earlier this week blaming Kyiv for the war and revealing he had exchanged gifts and "sweet letters" with his old friend, Russian President Vladimir Putin. After days of often tense talks, Meloni unveiled her team Friday, giving five ministries each to the

League and Forza Italia and reserving nine cabinet posts for her own party. Technocrats make up the rest of the 24-strong squad, which includes just six women and where the average age is 60. Italy's perennially weak economy and ballooning national debt were entrusted to Giancarlo Giorgetti, seen as a moderate member of the League. The Foreign Ministry was handed to Forza Italia veteran Antonio Tajani, seen as a pro-European dove. Tajani told a local television channel his first act would be to call his Ukrainian counterpart to assure him of Italy's continued solidarity. Meloni's party has neo-fascist roots, but she sought to project a moderate image during the election campaign, dropping previous anti-EU rhetoric and pledging to keep Italy at the heart of European and Western institutions. Meloni is due to hold her first cabinet meeting on Sunday following a formal handover of power with Draghi. She will then will face obligatory confidence votes in parliament during the week that she will easily win given her comfortable majority.

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Lights go out in Ukraine after Russian bombings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Oct 22: Hundreds of thousands of people in central and western Ukraine woke up Saturday to power outages and periodic bursts of gunfire, as Ukrainian air defense tried to shoot down drones and incoming missiles. Russia has intensified its strikes on power stations, water supply systems and other key infrastructure across the country, the latest phase of the war as it nears the eight-month mark. Ukraine's air force said in a statement Saturday that Russia had launched "a massive missile attack" targeting "critical infrastructure," hours after air raid sirens blared across the country. It said that it had downed 18 out of 33 cruise missiles launched from air and sea. "Several rockets" targeting the capital were shot down Saturday morning, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on the Telegram messaging service.



Similar reports were made by the governors of six western and central provinces, as well as the southern Odesa region on the Black Sea. The presidential office said in its morning statement that five explosive-laden drones were downed in the central Cherkasy region southeast of Kyiv. Meanwhile, Russian-installed authorities ordered all residents of the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson to leave "immediately" Saturday ahead of an expected advance by Ukrainian troops waging a counteroffensive to recapture one of the first urban areas Russia took after invading the country.

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LATEST GUN CONTROL ACTION

Canada bans new handgun sales

THE NEW MEASURES STOP PEOPLE FROM BUYING, SELLING OR TRANSFERRING HANDGUNS WITHIN CANADA, AND PREVENT THEM FROM BRINGING NEWLY ACQUIRED HANDGUNS INTO THE COUNTRY

REUTERS

Ottawa, Oct 22: Regulations prohibiting the sale, purchase or transfer of handguns within Canada took effect Friday, as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the measure builds on earlier efforts banning handgun imports. The handgun freeze was announced in May alongside proposed legislation that would implement the nation's strongest gun control measures in 40 years as part of Trudeau's plan to tackle gun violence, his office said. But the freeze was criticized by the government of the western province of Alberta, which has previously said it will resist other gun control

We have frozen the market for handguns in this country. As we see gun violence continue to rise... we have an obligation to take action. Today our national handgun freeze is coming into force
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

measures proposed by Ottawa. Friday's action stops people from buying, selling or transferring handguns within Canada, and prevents them from bringing newly acquired handguns into the country, according to the prime minister's office. Canadian Public Safety Minister



Marco Mendicino called it the most significant action on gun violence in Canada in a generation. Trudeau's ruling Liberal government introduced bill C-21 to fight gun violence, and his office said Friday's move will help "keep Canadians safe" while the legislation is debated. In August, it banned imports until the law passes. "We've got to get that law passed as quickly as possible," Mendicino said, speaking alongside Trudeau. Under the executive action, any handgun applications submitted

before Friday will still be processed, Trudeau's office said.

Canada has stricter gun laws than the United States, but Canadians can own firearms with a license. Some firearms must also be registered. Canada's gun homicide rate is a fraction of the United States' rate, 2020 data showed, but is still higher than other wealthy countries and has been rising, with handguns the main weapon used in the majority of firearm-related violent crimes between 2009 and 2020.

business



“
”
Around Rs 40,000 crores of business is expected on two days festival of Dhanteras
BC BHARTIA | PRESIDENT, CAIT

OLA LAUNCHES NEW E-SCOOTER

Ola Electric Saturday launched an all-new Ola S1 Air electric scooter at a special introductory price of ₹79,999. The e-scooter weighs 99 kgs and claims to deliver top speed of 85 km per hour, and goes from zero to 40 in just 4.3 seconds. Those who reserves the scooter for ₹999 on or before Diwali can get it for an introductory price of ₹79,999



of the day quote

5G capability becomes more important as we move up the ladder for budget preference for future smartphones

ARUSHI CHAWLA | ANALYST, COUNTERPOINT RESEARCH

There is no change in the plan or the direction and I think both GIC and we are reasonably committed to the entire thing, but given the high interest rate scenario currently going on and the overall uncertainty, this obviously is not the best time for a new REIT

ASHOK TYAGI | CEO, DLF

We all know that occupancy is related to the content which we are showing. And we have some major challenges with the content in Q2

ALOK TANDON | CEO, INOX

Q2 RESULTS

Yes Bank profit falls 32% in Q2

New Delhi: Yes Bank Saturday reported 32 per cent decline in standalone net profit at Rs 152.82 crore for September quarter 2022 on higher provisions. The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 225.50 crore for the year-ago same period. In preceding June quarter 2022, the net profit stood at Rs 310.63 crore. Total income during July-September 2022-23, however, was higher at Rs 6,394.11 crore as against Rs 5,430.30 crore in the same period a year ago, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing. Likewise, net NPAs came down to 3.60 per cent from 5.55 per cent.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q2 rises 27%

New Delhi: Kotak Mahindra Bank Saturday reported an about 27 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 2,581 crore for the quarter ended September 2022. The private sector lender had posted a net profit of Rs 2,032 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. Total income during July-September period of 2022-23 grew to Rs 10,047 crore, as against Rs 8,408 crore in the year-ago quarter, Kotak Mahindra Bank said in a regulatory filing. Net NPAs dropped to 0.55 per cent from 1.06 per cent.

ICICI Bank Q2 net jumps 31%

Mumbai: ICICI Bank Saturday reported a 31.43 per cent jump in its September quarter consolidated net profit at Rs 8,006.99 crore. On a standalone basis, the second largest private sector lender reported a 37.14 per cent rise in September quarter net profit at Rs 7,557.84 crore, as against Rs 5,510.95 crore in the year-ago period. The bank's total income grew to Rs 31,088 crore in the reporting quarter, while the overall expenses climbed to Rs 19,408 crore from Rs 18,027 crore.

IDFC First Bank Q2 net up 266%

New Delhi: IDFC First Bank Saturday reported a 266 per cent jump in its net profit at Rs 556 crore for the quarter ended September 2022 on the back of strong growth in core operating income. The private sector lender had posted a net profit of Rs 152 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Its core operating income (excluding trading gains) rose by 35 per cent from a year ago to Rs 3,947 crore in Q2 of 2022-23 fiscal year, it said in a regulatory filing.

UK's economic outlook now 'negative'

Moody's said there were "risks to the UK's debt affordability", but kept its rating of Aa3, the fourth-highest level on its scale

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Oct 22: The UK's economic outlook has been lowered to "negative" by ratings agency Moody's due to the ongoing political instability and high inflation.

Moody's changed the UK's outlook, which is a marker of how likely it is to pay back debts, from "stable", the BBC reported. Rating agencies, in essence, rate a country on the strength of its economy.

Moody's along with another of the big credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's (S&P) maintained their assessments of the UK's credit rating.

Rating agencies give governments (or large companies) a score on how likely they are to pay back their debt.

Moody's said there were "risks to the UK's debt affordability", but kept its rating of Aa3, the fourth-highest level on its scale.

Meanwhile, S&P maintained the UK's rating of AA, its third highest rating level, and maintained its previously-changed outlook from stable to negative.

The reports published Friday do not mean the UK's credit rating has been downgraded, but a negative outlook indicates it could be downgraded at a later date.



The other outlooks countries can be given are positive, or stable, and any outlook period typically lasts 12 to 18 months, BBC reported. Moody's said there were two "drivers" behind its decision to change the UK's economic outlook. It said the first was "the increased risk to the UK's credit profile from the heightened unpredictability in policymaking amid

a volatile domestic political landscape".

Moody's said this challenged the UK's "ability to manage the shock arising from weaker growth prospects and high inflation".

The ratings agency said it viewed the government's mini-budget, the reversal of the majority of the policies in it, and the change in Prime Minister as a "continuing reflection of the weakening predictability of fiscal policymaking seen in previous years".

Moody's assessment comes after government borrowing costs rose sharply in the aftermath of the mini-budget in September when investors became spooked by the then Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng pledging huge tax cuts without saying how the government would pay for them.

Sebi bars Bombay Dyeing, Ness Wadia, others from market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Sebi has barred 10 entities, including Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Company Ltd and its promoters - Nusli Wadia, Ness Wadia and Jehangir Wadia - from the securities markets for up to two years and levied a fine totalling Rs 15.75 crore on them for being involved in a fraudulent scheme of misrepresenting the company's financial statements.

Others banned and penalised by Sebi are - Scal Services Ltd, a Wadia Group company, its then directors DS Gagrat, NH Datanwala Shailesh Karnik, R Chandrasekharan, and Durgesh Mehta, who was joint managing director and chief financial officer of Bombay Dyeing.

They have been directed to pay the penalty within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its order passed Friday.

On the basis of certain complaints, Sebi conducted a detailed investigation into the affairs of Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Ltd (BDMCL) for the period covering FY 2011-12 to FY 2018-19.

In its probe, Sebi found that these entities were involved in a fraudulent scheme of misrepresentation of financial statements of BDMCL, by inflating sales of Rs 2,492.94 crore and profit of Rs 1,302.20 crore arising from the alleged sale of flats (through memoranda of understanding or MoUs) by BDMCL to Scal during FY 2011-12 to 2017-18.

Overall, the regulator levied a fine of Rs 2.25 crore on Bombay Dyeing, Rs 4 crore on Nusli Wadia, Rs 5 crore on Jehangir Wadia, Rs 2 crore on Ness Wadia, Rs 50 lakh on Mehta, Rs 1 crore on Scal and Rs 25 lakh each on the then directors of Scal.

GEO-POLITICAL CRISIS LOOMS

India's inflation mgmt beats other countries

The RBI repo rate hikes and declining global commodity prices have helped to restrain inflation, the finance ministry report noted

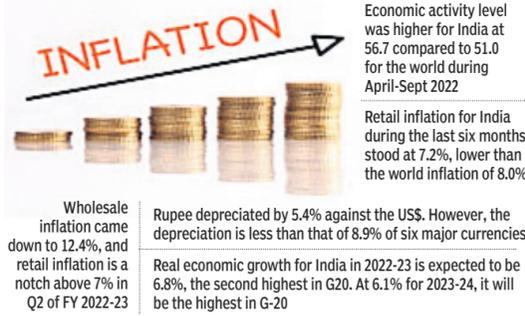
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Sounding a note of caution, the Finance Ministry's Economic Review said Saturday that inflation might witness another resurgence in case of deterioration of geo-political situation leading to higher global energy prices and supply chain pressures.

Observing that India has managed inflation better than most other countries in the world, the Review said that barring further weather extremities, retail food inflation is expected to decline in the coming months, leading to lower headline retail inflation. However, it added, global energy prices and supplies remain sources of concern.

"Geopolitical conflicts may yet intensify reigniting supply chain pressures that have eased recently. If so, inflation may yet see a resurgence rather than a decline in 2023," it said.

Retail inflation for India during these six months stood at 7.2 per cent, lower than the world inflation of 8 per cent, as represented by the median inflation of major



economies, it said.

During the same period, it said, the INR depreciated by 5.4 per cent against the USD, less than the depreciation of 8.9 per cent of six major currencies in the DXY Index. A series of measures taken by the RBI during July 2022 is expected to stabilise the capital flows further and support the INR, it said.

The report said India's growth narrative in the first six months of the current financial year featured the uninterrupted trust government provided to its capital expenditure that, until August of FY 2022-23, stood 46.8 per cent higher than the corresponding period of the previous year.

The increase marked a decisive shift towards improved quality of spending as the ratio of revenue expenditure to capital outlay fell to

4.5 from 6.4 in the last year, it said, adding, rising capital expenditure levels were also supported by stronger revenue generation following an improvement in tax compliance, higher corporate profitability, and growing economic activity.

Increasing revenue generation has further kept the fiscal deficit until August aligned with its budgeted level, which otherwise could have gone awry with high capital expenditure, higher fertilizer and food subsidies and excise tax cuts to rein in inflation, it added.

While capital formation and digitalisation boost medium-term potential growth rate, learning losses caused by the pandemic-induced shutdowns and rising obesity levels restrain it, the report said, a healthy and educated India is a productive India.

Khimji hopeful of a good Dhanteras: Mitesh

During this festive season of Dhanteras and Diwali, Mitesh Khimji, Director of Khimji Jewellers, shares how the business has fared so far



■ Due to no Covid-19 curbs this year, we expect the sales to witness good response. The footfall in our stores has seen a massive

jump as people's sentiment is positive this festive season. They are coming out in large numbers to purchase our products.

■ **How is your business performance in this season? Are you getting good response from customers?**

■ Yes, the response has been quite well. We hope jewellery market will see an uptick in coming

days. We are hopeful to match pre-pandemic level of sales.

■ **What do you have to say about customers' choices?**

■ The buying behaviour of customers changes from time to time depending on the age group they belong to. Some customers like yellow metals, some are more into stones and mostly the young mass prefers light weight day-to-day smart jewellery options.

Theatre chains look to cash in on India-Pak T20 WC match

Last year, both PVR Cinemas and INOX Leisure Ltd had entered into a collaboration with the ICC to live screen all India games, along with the semi-finals and finals of the T20 World Cup 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: It's the perfect marriage of cinema and cricket, the two 'religions' of the country, that will play out on the big screens Sunday as India take on arch-rivals Pakistan in their ICC T20 World Cup opener.

While some lucky ones will witness the rivalry play on the field at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), many will watch the match on their TV and smartphone screens. Other cricket fans will be glued to comfortable seats at the theatres where they will see the events unfold on the 70mm screen.

Leading multiplex chains INOX Leisure Ltd and PVR Cinemas will screen all matches to be played by India at the World Cup 2022 in their cinema halls across the country, starting with the marquee clash between the Men in Blue, headed by Rohit Sharma, and the Babar Azam-led Men in Green Sunday.

Following an agreement with the International Cricket Council (ICC) in this regard, INOX Leisure had last week said it will showcase all group matches to be played by Team India, followed by the semi-finals and the final match.

While screening of cricket matches is "not a new trend", it is



a highly profitable venture, said Rajender Singh Jyala, chief programming officer, INOX Leisure Ltd.

India versus Pakistan cricket matches are a big draw every time and the scenario is no different for Sunday's match, he said.

The shows at cinema halls are "houseful", pretty much like the sell-out Super 12 clash of the T20 World Cup to be played at the MCG.

"In the past, we have shown cricket and football matches. It is scheduled by the ICC or FIFA (International Federation of

DHANTERAS DEMAND

Jewellers eye upto 20% sales growth



ON AN AVERAGE, 20-30 TONNE OF GOLD IS SOLD ON DHANTERAS DAY IN INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Two-day pre-Diwali Dhanteras buying of gold and silver began on a positive note Saturday with some big jewellers and an industry body anticipating a further pickup in demand by Sunday and up to 20 per cent higher sales than the last year.

High gold prices have not deterred consumers from buying on Dhanteras, which is considered the most auspicious day in the Hindu calendar for buying items ranging from precious metals to utensils, to other valuables.

On Saturday, gold prices were ruling at Rs 50,139 per 10 grams, excluding taxes, in the national capital, much higher than Rs 47,644 per 10 grams on Dhanteras day in 2021.

"As this year Dhanteras is spread over the weekend, we expect the momentum to increase towards evening and tomorrow," All India Gem And Jewellery Domestic Council Chairman Ashish Pethe told PTI.

The market response has been good on the first day of Dhanteras and is likely to continue Sunday as well, he added.

Asked about expected growth, Pethe said: "In terms of value it is expected to be 5-10 per cent more than last year as the gold prices are 5 per cent more than 2021

Dhanteras. However, in terms of volume it is likely to be at par with the last year," he said.

World Gold Council Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR said the rural demand will hold the key to whether the sales beat last year's Dhanteras and wedding season figures.

"The current year does not have the benefit of a pent-up demand and higher savings caused by lock-down that assisted last year's season to post a record demand," he said.

In addition, wallet squeeze due to inflation, hike in customs duty and depreciation in INR have all neutralised the impact of the drop in global price, leaving gold prices hovering around Rs 50,000 per 10 grams in India, Somasundaram said.

Among Jewellers, Kalyan Jewellers Executive Director Ramesh Kalyanaram said: "On the back of strong pre-booking numbers, we are expecting good customer footfall across our showrooms, especially in the non-South markets."

The Shubh Muhurat begins this evening and we are gearing up for longer business hours, in lieu of that, he added. So far, the majority of our customers have opted for lightweight token purchases such as mangalsutra, bracelets, chains, etc. Apart from gold coins.

"In line with the upcoming wedding season, we are also receiving good response for heavier designs from our wedding collection," Kalyanaram said.

Overall, he expects that Dhanteras spread over a weekend will result in positive consumer sentiment.



Smile Gold Jewellers, one of the leading jewellery businesses in Bhubaneswar, has launched their 'Dhanteras and Diwali' festive offers. The showroom has announced a slew of discounts on the occasion ranging from gold and silver ornaments, branded watches and gemstones

PVR has always had a diversified content strategy. We are constantly looking at ways in which we can expand our content offerings, exhibition of tomorrow's game is a step in the same direction

SANJEEV KUMAR BIJLI | JMD, PVR LTD

Association Football) or whenever they have tournaments. Like, a month ago we had Asia cup matches being screened, before that we had the last World Cup two-three years ago. In a business sense, that particular event is profitable as the show is houseful," Jyala told PTI.

PVR Cinemas, another prominent film theatre company, will screen all matches played by India as well as semi-finals and the final

of the tournament. Sunday's game will be streamed live in 100 screens across 45 cities in India.

According to Jyala, the cricket match will be screened in 90 INOX screens across India, except southern states of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and other places.

Jyala also informed the ticket prices for Sunday's match differ from location to location, starting from Rs 250 to Rs 500 for the live telecast, to be screened between 1.30 pm and 6 pm.

Earlier this year in March, INOX Leisure and PVR had announced a merger to create the country's largest multiplex chain.

Back in 2010, many multiplex operators including PVR and INOX as well as single screen theatres had 3D screenings of four pre-final matches in theatres across India during the third season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

'THE MATCH' IS ON Kiwis make big statement

Confident India hope to turn tables on Pakistan when the arch-rivals face off in their ICC T20 World Cup 2022 campaign opener today with rain threatens to play spoilsport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Oct 22: Wicketkeeper-batter Devon Conway smashed an unbeaten 92 (58b, 7x4, 2x6) as New Zealand began the T20 World Cup Super 12 stage in emphatic fashion, thrashing defending champions Australia by 89 runs here Saturday.

The 31-year-old left-handed opener played some sublime shots as he held the New Zealand innings together and took them to an imposing 200/3 after they were sent in to bat. Also, not to forget the explosive start given by rising T20 star Finn Allen as he hammered a sensational 16-ball 42 (5x4, 3x6).

In reply, Kiwi pacer Tim Southee (3/6) set the tone early on before left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (3/31) foxed the Aussies with his clever variation to make it a lopsided contest.

The New Zealanders were relentless in attack as Australia folded for 111 in 17.1 overs to suffer their second heaviest T20I defeat in terms of runs. This was also Australia's first defeat to New Zealand in Australia in any format since 2011.

The Aussies lost half of their side in 10.2 overs after the talented Tim David (11) became Santner's third victim. Southee cleaned up David Warner in the most unlikely fashion when the left-hander's pull shot ricocheted off his leg, arm and bat before unsettling the stumps in the second over.

Despite the big setback, the defending champions were quick to regroup as Mitchell Marsh played some exquisite shots, including a stunning six over covers against Santner.

Just when the hosts looked to be getting into the groove with the



SPLENDID KNOCK: Devon Conway watches the ball after playing a cut-shot

experienced duo of Marcus Stoinis and Glenn Maxwell (28) in the middle, a Superman-like flying catch by Glenn Phillips triggered a collapse. The boundaries started drying up after Finch and Marsh fell cheaply.

Stoinis looked to attack a wide Santner delivery as Phillips, from the deep cover ran a few yards to his right and dived to complete a blinder. Australia, without their star batter Steve Smith, looked out of depth.

Earlier, Conway did not go ballistic but his runs came at a good rate and he completed his fifty in 36 balls, with a six off Adam Zampa in the 13th over. In the process, he became the second fastest player in T20I history after Dawid Malan to score 1,000 runs.

However he failed to complete his maiden century in the format with Jimmy Neesham (26 n o) taking

most of the strike at the death to push the total to 200 with a six off the final ball by Josh Hazlewood.

Conway's opening partner Allen fired the opening salvo, inside the powerplay to give the Kiwis the perfect start after Aaron Finch opted to field.

The seasoned Conway was content playing the second fiddle with Allen hitting all around the park, as they raced to 56 for no loss inside four overs. Hazlewood finally gave a breakthrough to the hosts as he yorked Allen in the fifth over to bring an end to his innings, which came at an astonishing strike-rate of 262.5.

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 200/3 (Devon Conway 92 n o, Finn Allen 42; Josh Hazlewood 2/41) beat Australia 111 (Glenn Maxwell 28, Pat Cummins 21; Tim Southee 3/6, Mitchell Santner 3/31, Trent Boult 2/24) by 89 runs.



All eyes will be on India's top-3 - (from L) Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and Virat Kohli when they face Pakistan, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Oct 22: Its unblemished record of success against the arch-rivals at the marquee ICC events a thing of the past, a hurt Indian team will be desperate for revenge against a high-quality Pakistan side in a sell-out Super 12 clash of the T20 World Cup, here Sunday.

While rain is threatening to play spoilsport, it's unlikely to be a complete washout according to people who understand weather conditions here.

Thousands of fans from both countries have crisscrossed the globe to watch their team in action and trust rival captains Rohit Sharma and Babar Azam to tell you this is another 'match' for them but all the 22 players and the reserves know that this is 'The Match'.

MS Dhoni, under whom, India never lost to Pakistan at ICC events, would repeat himself time and again that there is no place for the word 'revenge' in a cricket field.

But a lot has changed in the past one year since Shaheen Shah Afridi in an intimidating opening spell gave Pakistan team their first victory in a World Cup across formats.

It wasn't just a match won or a voodoo broken but that 3/31 by Shaheen was also successful in bruising the egos of some of contemporary cricket world's biggest batting stalwarts.

While Rohit, Virat Kohli or KL Rahul aren't the ones to forget last year's humiliation in Dubai easily,

INDIA vs PAKISTAN
TIME: 01:30 PM
TELECAST
STAR SPORTS CHANNELS & HOTSTAR



DEADLY COMBO: Mohammad Rizwan (L) and Babar Azam share a laughter during Pakistan's Practice session ahead of India match

the fact remains that India as a team has looked slightly undercooked in recent times.

And at least Sunday, the 'Men In Blue' wouldn't start as favourites in the 'mother of all clashes'.

BCCI's statement that India will not travel to Pakistan to play the Asia Cup and the subsequent PCB threat of pulling out of 50 over World Cup in India has only made the atmosphere more politically charged and vicious.

India wouldn't mind going into a match as underdogs and it will be

Pakistan, who will have to live up to the high expectations.

It is after nearly 37-and-a-half years that an India versus Pakistan clash has been scheduled at the MCG. First since the 1985 Benson & Hedges World Championship of cricket final took place. That was Sunil Gavaskar's last match as India captain and back home in India, fans watched Ravi Shastri take a gleaming Audi for a spin around MCG

Nine years we have not won the ICC trophy and things like that. Of course, it's there in the back of our players' mind, but it's important to just keep that away and just focus on the job at hand at the moment

ROHIT SHARMA

We have plans for each (Indian) player, not just Surya (Suryakumar Yadav). We have a plan and hopefully we can execute them properly. Whatever be the duration of the match (considering rain threat), we are ready. But for the fans, it would be great if we have a full match

BABAR AZAM

Shaheen (Afridi) is an attacking bowler and he likes to go for wickets. He pitches the ball up and backs himself to swing the ball. He has the capability to beat the batters in the air and off the pitch with his pace upfront. So with him strategy should be to play straight and within the 'V'

SACHIN TENDULKAR

Haaland lifts City, Reds stunned Kerala Blasters test awaits Odisha FC

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Oct 22: Erling Haaland took his goal total to 22 this season as Manchester City moved to within a point of Premier League leader Arsenal Saturday. The Norway international struck twice in a 3-1 win against Brighton at the Etihad Stadium to continue his remarkable scoring streak.

Earlier on the day, Nottingham Forest produced a shock to beat Liverpool 1-0. The last-place team at the start of the day secured only their second win of the season in the game at the City Ground.

At the Etihad, Kevin De Bruyne added a third after Leandro Trossard had briefly put the result in doubt. Haaland looked set to register his fourth hat trick of the season, with both goals coming in the first half.

He didn't manage that but his latest double moved him up to 17 league goals, which is just six fewer than Mo Salah and Son Heung-min required to share the Golden Boot last season as joint leading scorers.

Haaland, who failed to find the back of the net in City's 1-0 loss at Liverpool last week, opened the scoring after 22 minutes. Ederson's long clearance reached the run of the striker and, with Brighton goalkeeper Robert Sanchez stranded outside of his goal, Haaland overpowered Adam Webster and rolled the ball into an empty net.

Haaland got his and City's second two minutes before halftime after referee Craig Pawson reviewed a challenge from Lewis Dunk on Bernardo Silva and awarded a penalty. Haaland stepped up and powered a low shot past



Sanchez, which was the club's 600th league goal under Pep Guardiola.

Just as City fans might have been wondering how many goals their team would rack up in a latest rout, Brighton reduced the deficit. Riyad Mahrez looked set to add to the home team's lead but his tame shot was saved by Sanchez, which allowed Brighton to break. Solly March laid the ball off to Trossard just outside the penalty box and he unleashed a low drive that beat Ederson at his near post in the 53rd.

Trossard could have equalized later when running through on

goal - but his shot from a tight angle was saved. Brighton paid the price for that missed opportunity when De Bruyne made it 3-1 in the 75th with a superb 25-yard shot that curled into the top corner.

In the Liverpool-Forest match, Taiwo Awoniyi struck in the 55th minute to end the Reds' mini-revival, which saw them beat Rangers, Manchester City and West Ham in their previous three games.

Awoniyi was on the books at Anfield for six years without ever playing for the first team, but he produced the decisive moment to lift Forest off the foot of the table.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The Indian Super League (ISL) returns to the capital city after a two-year hiatus as Odisha FC host Kerala Blasters FC at the Kalinga Stadium Sunday. Both sides will be desperate for points as they come into this fixture after losing their previous matches.

The last time Odisha FC and

Blasters clashed at this venue, the game ended in a thrilling 4-4 draw. The Juggernauts have played six matches at the Kalinga Stadium, winning four and losing just one.

The hosts will be eager to build on their stellar home record and get a result against the Blasters. However, it will be anything but a cakewalk for the Juggernauts, who have won just one game in their last six games against them.

"We are happy to be back home, playing at the Kalinga Stadium again. We have good memories here and all the players are excited to perform well tomorrow (Sunday)," said head coach Josep Gombau. "We hope fans come in numbers to see the game and I hope we start with a win at home," he added.

In their last game, Odisha FC attempted 16 shots, nine more than

their opponents Mumbai City FC. However, seven were blocked, six were off-target, and just three made the keeper work. Shot accuracy is an aspect the Juggernauts will have to improve for the upcoming game.

Striker Diego Mauricio has enjoyed playing against the Blasters in the past. The Brazilian, who has already scored twice this season, has netted five goals in three games against them in his ISL career so far.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lakshya bows out

ODENSE: Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen suffered a straight game loss to Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the men's singles quarterfinal to bring down curtains on India's campaign at the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament here. Sen lost 17-21, 12-21 to Naraoka, a bronze medalist at the 2018 Youth Olympics, in a lopsided contest Friday. The two have played thrice in international circuit with the Japanese winning twice. Interestingly, it was Sen, who had defeated him in the 2018 Youth Olympics semifinals, their last meeting.

Odisha humbled

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha suffered an 87-run defeat against Chhattisgarh in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament match in Lucknow, Saturday. Chhattisgarh posted 167/7 after winning the toss and opting to bat, courtesy a 92-run stand for the second wicket between opener Amandeep Khare (57, 46b, 5x4, 3x6) and skipper Harpreet Singh (47, 37b, 5x6). Mustaq Beg (2/29) was the standout among the Odisha bowlers. In reply, Odisha were bundled out for a paltry 80 in 17.3 overs. Subhranshu Senapati (24) was the top scorer for Odisha. Sumit Ruikar (3/22) was excellent with the ball for the winners.

Swapnil bags India's 3rd Olympics quota

CAIRO: Swapnil Kusale bagged the third Paris Olympics quota place for India after finishing fourth in the men's 50m rifle 3 position final of the ISSF World Championships here Saturday. The first quota was won by Bhowaneesh Mendiratta in the men's trap shooting event and the second was claimed by Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil in the 10m air rifle event where he won the gold medal. Rhythm Sangwan missed a quota place narrowly in the women's 25m pistol as India also picked up two more medals on the day with a 1-2 finish in the 10m air pistol mixed team junior competition. India's tally in the event stood at 32 medals, including 12 gold, eight silver and 12 bronze.

Messi, Mbappe help PSG thrash Ajaccio

AGENCIES

Paris, Oct 22: Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe combined superbly to inspire Paris Saint-Germain to a 3-0 Ligue 1 win at Ajaccio Friday.

The defending champions were without the suspended Neymar, leaving it up to the two other stars on their forward line to send PSG six points clear at the top. They did so in style.

Mbappe broke the deadlock in the 24th minute after being teed up by Messi before missing a series of chances to claim a hat-trick. Mbappe and Messi linked up brilliantly for the latter to make it 2-0 before the long-time Real Madrid target added further gloss with his second.

Mbappe's backheel return pass in their one-two was exquisite and Messi finished the move in fitting fashion by shifting the ball beyond the helpless Benjamin Leroy and tapping into an empty net.



Messi then returned to the role of creator, teeing up Mbappe on the edge of the box, with Leroy left with no chance by a fierce finish into bottom left-corner.